

Barrow, Alaska,  
May 9, 1938.

Dear Friends,

In the last two mails we received so many letters, and in the letters so many questions, that we think it is about time to write a general letter. For if two or three ask the same questions, the probability is that more are wondering about the thing. So you see the questions you ask help us to know what to tell you, and make our letter writing much easier. Some of you apologized for asking so many, but we are thankful that you did.

In the first place, we were very much surprised to find that some people were not sure what the "objects to the right of the church" on our Christmas card, were. We looked at some of the cards that we had left and found that those objects were not very clearly defined, at that. But we never thought but that everyone would recognize a dog team, since they are so typical of Alaska. It happened that Nan was going down the slope toward the beach one day, soon after the sun returned. In fact it was the first of February. It was about eleven o'clock in the morning, as she was on a picture taking tour, and the sun didn't come out till quite late. About half way down the slope she happened to look back and saw the church silhouetted beautifully against the sky. Just then along came a dog team, and the driver stopped to talk to some one. She seized the opportunity and snapped the picture as you saw it.

Now to skip to the next question. Some one asked about how well we are able to keep up with current events, and if we get news over the radio. We brought a radio with us when we came, but it has never been satisfactory. Recently, when Mr. Cook, Sir Hubert Wilkins' radio man was here, he thoroughly examined and tested that radio and found that it was not the kind to bring in very much so far from the broadcasting stations. Of course radio has been very bad here all year, worse than ever before. They say it may be due to sun spots; but however that may be we have not heard any radio to speak of in this house. Recently we have been trying out a radio that was left here by some former residents, and is for sale. It gives much better results than ours, but requires alternating current to operate it, and our current is direct. There is a converter with it, but there are still lots of motor noises that haven't been cut out. So far, you see, we haven't had much luck with trying to hear the news. We get the most important bits from our neighbors, who have better luck than we, but we are certainly sadly behind the times. Newspapers come eventually, but we feel decidedly out of the swim, and only seem to hear echoes of the big outside world. To tell the truth, it is rather restful. When we do get hot news, it is all tragic or sordid, or so it seems.

Mail: We get it in the summer by boat, and at other times by dog team or plane. The boat lanes open about the middle of July or after, whenever the off-shore wind blows long enough to move the ice away. We also get mail at various times during the winter. This year we had three dog team mails, November, January and March. Mail came in by plane in



April, and we expect another plane mail any day. We were able to send out a little mail quite frequently this winter because of the Russian search and all the planes that came in and out. They didn't bring mail in, however, because all those planes came from Fairbanks and our mail comes from Kotzebue.

*Eudora*

We have been asked about clothing. We dress like we do in the states, except not so fancy, and with a little more underwear. Fred wears his "long-horned" medium weight all year except sometimes when he goes on the trail, when he uses all wool. He usually wears a wool shirt, also. Nan wears these things distastefully named "snugglies", summer and winter. She wears house dresses that can be washed, almost exclusively, cotton stockings, and Eskimo boots. The house boots she is wearing now are made from white reindeer legs, and the soles are seal skin. They come up about six inches above her ankle, and tie around the ankle with straps. She used to wear sport shoes, but found them too cold for the winter. Now that summer is approaching we will soon have to change to the kind of boots that are water-proof. The tops will be dyed sealskin and the soles made of big, or bearded, seal. They will smell pretty strong, but as long as our feet keep their distance, we will be able to stand it. After we have worn them awhile, they will lose some of their seal smell, and perhaps smell like us. Anyway, we won't notice the odor so much.

Housekeeping: Well, probably our problems are somewhat different from that of most people in the States. We have a boarder this year, you know, and he pays his board by giving Nan help. That is, he pays the wages of the girl who comes in each day (except Sunday) to help her. It has been a fine thing to have her, because Nan has been able to spend more time on Mission work, and also because she has been so afflicted with colds this year that she hasn't had much ambition. Of course she never has been keen on housework, and would much rather write letters, or teach a Sunday School class, or study typewriting, or monkey around making things. Fred calls her Mechanical Mary. The other day she made a wire rack to hold pot lids for the inside of a cupboard door, and soldered it with Mr. Morgan's electric soldering iron, and had more fun doing it than if she had gone on a picnic. So her housekeeping, most of the time, consists of planning meals, keeping things straightened up, and some of the cooking. The chief problems are in planning meals. She finds it better if she plans for a whole week at a time, though she sometimes has to change it at the last minute. Lunches are the special bugbear. When one can't serve fresh vegetables, fruits, or eggs, the selection is somewhat limited. So we rely on soups, canned salad mixtures, waffles, pancakes and sandwiches for most of them. For meat we have practically nothing but reindeer, with an occasional change to goose, seal liver, and the canned meats. We use reindeer for steaks, roasts, hamburger, stew and so on, just like beef. It is more tender than beef usually is, but we would often give a lot to have a fresh chicken, or a leg of lamb, or veal cutlets. We imitate all those things, but they taste pretty much alike. Vegetables are all canned, and now we have no more potatoes left except frozen ones. They are fairly good, <sup>but</sup> ~~flushed~~ <sup>fried</sup> with lots of butter and seasonings, but don't taste like the real ones. <sup>So</sup> ~~he~~ <sup>he</sup> can't tell the difference, but ~~he~~ <sup>they</sup> are no good baked. We still ~~don't know~~ <sup>don't know</sup> they help. Tomorrow we are



going to have stew for dinner, with lots of canned new pota-toes, no carrots, because we have only one can left, but with onions, and other vegetables. And for desert I am going to have frozen canned loganberries. We had strawberry shortcake the other day. Canned strawberries, of course, and whipped "cream" made by using some gelatine in the milk. We see lots of tempting things in the magazines, and sometimes Nan finds one she can makeshift to try out on the family. However, Fred doesn't like to be experimented on much. For milk we like Klim (that dried milk) for cereal, and we use the regular canned milk for cooking. Butter comes to us wrapped up by the pound in oil paper, like you get it, only wet from the brine it is packed in. We have to buy all our jellies and jams because there is nothing here in the line of wild berries or fruits.

We keep our house at about the same temperature that you do, perhaps a little cooler. This year it has been easy, because with an oil range in the kitchen, the house keeps a more even temperature than before. We hardly have to have any stove going but the kitchen one, and that usually goes day and night. It will even heat Fred's study upstairs, as he is going to cut a register through. We were asked if we use sheets on the bed. Some people here prefer blanket sheets, but we have never used them. Sometimes when the wind blows directly into the bedroom ventilator, and it is cold outside, we notice the cold, but usually we worry most about letting the bedroom get too warm. Ida does the laundry once a week in the electric washing machine, and then the kitchen is draped for a day with drying clothes. Mr. Foord calls it the weekly Junior Prom effect. We have running hot water, but not yet running cold. We dip that out of tanks in the kitchen.

We were asked about the physical and mental characteristics of the Eskimo people. We do not feel qualified to speak authoritatively on this subject, as every now and then we get a glimpse of something in them that we hadn't suspected before. However we can recommend to you Stefansson's books. Barrow people are by no means pure blooded, and that causes a good many variations in temperment as well as in physical characteristics. The two doctors who are doing medical research here this year have also been taking anthropological measurements, and they claim that they have not found one definitely full-blooded person in town. The teachers say that those with most white blood make the best students, as a general rule. Some of the people here are ambitious and hard-working. Some are exactly the opposite, and have no pride at all when it comes to sponging off whoever will feed them. They are all easy going. Physically most have chronic appendicitis, a very large percentage of them show symptoms of tuberculosis, none are anemic, most are thin as to body, and fat as to face. There are not more than three or four women in town who weigh over 150 pounds. Most range from 110 to 135. Almost all the women either have just had babies or are expecting them. Most of the children's teeth are poor. So much for that. Morally they still have a lot to learn. A lot of that trouble could be eliminated by more and better houses. When ten or fifteen people, of all ages and sexes, and often of different families, live in a one or two room house, temptation is hard to resist. Many of the problems here are two thirds or more economic. If they had a way to earn a steady living we would have happier,



healthier people. This year the trapping was very poor. From November to April most of the men are away all or part of the time trapping. Their families don't profit any by that unless the man is successful in bagging some foxes. Then they get twenty or so dollars worth of credit at the stores. They are all in debt to the stores. Some of them owe over a thousand dollars. Some only ten or twenty. Trapping is always a great gamble. We sometimes wonder why they bother with it, but probably they like it. There are pitch and oil deposits near here. If they could be developed and the people given steady employment, things would be so much better. The trouble with such a scheme is to get the capital (about eight thousand dollars) to get it going. That amount of money is not so much but that it could easily be obtained if one could promise big returns. But this oil field near here is naval reserve, and the best that an investor could hope for would be the return of his money, and perhaps some interest for the time it was being used. It would take a philanthropist to want to "throw away" his money just to get the Eskimos on their feet.

We were asked how large an area and what sized population we serve. Well, we don't know about the area, but the nearest white missionary is at Cape Prince of Wales. Barrow station is responsible for the church at Wainwright, and all the way to the Canadian border the other way. The population here is about 450, and that of Wainwright 385, and scattered along the coast and up the rivers to the east there are just about 550. Total, 1385.

The whaling season started not long ago. . . Soon after seal hunters along the edge of the ice saw whales, on their annual migration north, several crews went out to the edge with their skin boats, whaling guns, etc., and camped there. No sooner had they gotten there than they got a whale, quite a large one, too. The baleen ("whale bone"; soup strainer) in its mouth was said to be eight feet long. The next day they got another. And the town certainly went crazy. They haven't gotten any since, except some that have gone under the ice and have not been recovered, but we hope that the wind will change, so that the lead won't be quite so wide. You see, whales have to breathe every so often, and have to have open water to do it. That means that they must follow open leads or cracks in the ice. The wind has been blowing off-shore for some time now, and the ice on the other side of the lead has been out of sight most of the time. Consequently the whales have lots of choice in the matter of breathing places, and are harder to catch.

Fauning season has also been on, and the herders have been busy. Many of the fauns are born dead, and many more die right afterwards if their mothers do not lick them off carefully, so that they will be good and dry, and keep near them to feed them. The little things are able to run away almost immediately, and sometimes do. The skins from these babies is very soft, with fur about an inch long. It makes parkas that are light and feel fine, until they tear and let the cold through. They tear very easily, as Nan can witness, at least when tanned by the native method.

This is the time of year when we all use snow glasses. Even today,



which is cloudy and snowing, the glare is awful. We have several pair, and we often wear them as we work around in the house. The latest kind are polarized glass. They haven't so much color, but are ground in such a way that they reflect the light away from the eye, dividing the rays on the principal of the prism. They are the best thing yet. We don't have any, but Morgans got some from Fairbanks, and on Mr. Morgan's recent trip out on the ice and to the east, he never had any trouble with his eyes, while one of the men with him, wearing ordinary dark glasses became snowblind. Mr. Morgan traded glasses with him for awhile, and he quickly recovered.

*Tubercular* → The new hospital is being built rapidly. Mr. Brower, the trader here, was outside last winter, and got the job of putting it up. He got busy the day after he got home. It is going to be quite a building, but the architect who planned it didn't know how the frost collects around here, and they will have lots of trouble with the ceilings dripping, and the plaster board sagging during the spring thaws. However, the building is planned for a small tuberculosis ward for men and one for women, besides the isolation and other wards, so at least the worst cases will be taken care of. There is one young man in town who had no parents to take care of him, and his married brothers were so busy so much that they didn't assume any responsibility to speak of, even when they were in town, so that the boy's care was pretty haphazard. If it hadn't been for Mrs. Brower and a few other saintly neighbors, he would have died long ago. Finally we found that during an illness of Mrs. Brower's the boy had not had any food or care for two days. We couldn't let that go on, so we put up a tent in our back yard and a woman who is getting relief is glad to pass on the favor by taking care of him. He had trouble at first adjusting himself to the light and noise of the tent, but I guess he is getting used to it now. He is the sort of case the hospital would take if it had the facilities that the new building will have. You know the present "hospital" is nothing but a sod annex to the hospital warehouse, and naturally they cannot take in any contagious cases.

This afternoon the boys are trying to get the old tractor to work so as to haul ice and fill the ice house for the summer's drinking water supply. Every time an attempt is made to use that great lumbering piece of machinery, there is trouble. Fred has spent days working on it, after which it will go fairly decently for that trip, perhaps, only to get something else wrong with it before the next time. The Board thought they would be able to get us a snowmobile this year, which would take care of our problems beautifully, but they couldn't make it this time. So we will have to worry along with the tractor some more. The last time the boys took it out for ice, one of them froze his finger. It had gotten wet, I think, and as usual they took all afternoon and until one o'clock at night getting three miles to the ice pond and back with a small load. We had never seen a frozen finger before. When we saw it the next day it looked as though all the upper part of the finger, from half of the nail to the end, was one big yellow blister. It looked translucent like that. We sent him post haste to the doctor, and the circulation gradually was restored.



Do you remember our plans for a little greenhouse with things growing in water. Well, it hasn't materialized yet, but Morgans have a nice greenhouse. They have sturdy looking tomatoes and cucumbers, and have had radishes and lettuce and onions. A few boxes are devoted to flowers, nasturtiums and pansies, mostly for the sake of little Barrow, who would rather have flowers than candy any time. At supper there the other night we had the most delicious salad. Besides the regular canned salad vegetables Mrs. M. had added cut up radishes, and radish tops for greens, and baby onions, tops and all. The little bulbs were not any bigger than a capital O (at least not much bigger) but they were certainly good. Mr. Morgan had pulled up the onion crop to make room for more tomatoes, so the onions went into the salad.

We have become movie fans. Are any of you that way? With cameras borrowed from our long suffering neighbors we have to date taken one roll of eight millimeter film, and one roll the same size only colored. The color film shows just two subjects, Easter, with all the people in their pretty colored parka covers, and some scenes when a whale was caught not long ago. The color film we have seen so far, taken here, has all been too blue, so we used a yellow filter this time. Do any of you know if that will help? If they turn out well, perhaps I will send it along so that at least some of you can see it.

Best wishes to all,

Fred and Nan Klerekoper

P.S. (by Nan): It fell to my lot to stencil this for running off on the school's mimeograph, and I didn't get it done in time for the plane that brought in mail last week. (This is now May 16.) But it is just as well because I have more news to tell you. Fred had a couple of attacks of appendicitis, and though they were not very severe, they were interfering with his work a lot, and he would not have dared to go out of town for his regular itinerating. So since the plane from Kotzebue was coming with mail we persuaded him to go down there and have it snagged out before it became acute. It took a lot of persuading because he wanted to trust to luck and wait until the new hospital was ready to receive patients. The present facilities are entirely inadequate for anything except the most urgent emergencies. So finally he left yesterday morning, after trying it the night before only to have to return on account of fog down the coast, and he got to Kotzebue at two o'clock in the afternoon, only five hours after leaving here. That was good time, since they planned to make two stops. He was to go to the hospital today, but we will not know any more until tonight. Mr. Morgan keeps a schedule with Mr. Ferguson in Kotzebue each evening, so we can keep in touch. I expect Fred back within a couple of weeks, and will add another postscript when he gets safely home, so you will know the outcome, and this will, I hope, be able to go out to you on the plane he returns on. He is getting to be quite a flier! Our only other experience was when the Russians took us up once just for fun to see what the country looked like. . . . Well, more later.

Nan

Fred returned from Kotzebue by plane safe and sound  
on May June 3



# PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

AT

BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK G. KLEREKOPER, MINISTER

May 19, 1938.

Dr. J. M. Somerndike  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Somerndike,

Since Fred is away I am doing the family correspondence as much as possible. We want to thank you for advancing that money to us. We would have had a hard time managing without it. We heard from Fred yesterday. He had his operation, and apparently it was a good thing he had it done when he did. They said his appendix was in very bad condition. But he is getting along just fine, and I expect him home soon.

About the renting of the warehouse as a school room: Mr. Burkher asked if that might be arranged, as the school is very overcrowded, and more pupils are expected next year. If the increase is to be permanent, the government will make additions to the school. But this year they will try to get along as best they can, and perhaps send one or two new teachers. We use the upstairs of the warehouse constantly, but figured that we might be able to get along with the downstairs, and the shelving space upstairs, and probably have to work upstairs on missions boxes after school is out in the afternoons. We do not know for sure if the government will rent it, but Mr. Burkher wanted to canvas all possibilities to let his office know. We hope they will, as the money will come in handy to you -- perhaps it will help to pay for a snowmobile sometime. If new teachers come we might rent them a room here and board them. That would help to pay for Fred's operation. So you see things have at least the possibility of working out fine.

We were glad to hear there was no chance of the Episcopalians building in Wainwright. As Fred said in his wire to you, we had no definite proof that they had such intentions, only Percy had said he heard of it. It may have all been made up there in Wainwright, for all we know. I understand that Dick Hall and some of the other traders there think it is great sport to "pull Percy's leg" and that they often make up tales out of whole cloth to tell him. However, Percy thought this was really true, so we thought we had better let you know.

It is too bad that Captain Backland is not coming up here this year. We heard that our stuff would come on the Derblay to Kotzebue, and from there on the North Star. Fergusons have asked for the job of lightering at Kotzebue, and Fred thinks that it may turn out to be cheaper getting stuff here, in the long run, this way, that formerly, but as to that I don't know. Probably you will hear more about that later.

(over - important!)



Sincerely yours,

Anna B. Kleerekoper



June 21st, 1938

Mrs. Fred G. Klerekoper  
Point Barrow  
Alaska

Dear Mrs. Klerekoper:

I was very glad to receive your letter of May 19th. It is gratifying to learn that Fred is getting along so well after his operation. By this time he is home again, and I hope that he is rapidly regaining his strength.

If you can spare the space on the second floor of the warehouse for a schoolroom, we should be very glad to rent it to the government for the next school year. You are absolutely right in saying that "the money will come in handy." Indeed, I would be glad to adopt your suggestion to save it toward the purchase of a snowmobile. How much rental are they willing to pay for this space?

Of course it is all right for you to rent a room in the manse to the teachers. It will give you a little extra money to help pay the expense of Fred's operation.

I hope that your supplies will reach you all right this year. They will not be coming on the "North Star" as was originally planned, but arrangements have been made through Mr. Ummel to have the "M. S. Patterson" pick up the supplies at Kotzebue and carry them to Barrow. Mr. Gould has made arrangements with the Fergusons to do the job of lightering at Kotzebue.

I will make arrangements with the Treasurer's Office



to deduct from your salary payments the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ % pension dues and pay it each month to the Pension Board.

With best wishes to you and Fred, I am

Faithfully yours,

JMS:PDS

P. S. I have received an interesting letter from Andrew Akootchook. He speaks about the difficulty he is experiencing in maintaining his family of ten children on the salary which he receives from the Board. I can readily imagine how difficult it is for him to provide even the necessary food for such a large family on the small salary of \$25 a month. I would like Fred's advice as to whether we ought to increase his salary. I would like to give him \$400 or \$450 per year, if possible, next October, increasing his salary from the present figure of \$300 per year. He must be having a hard time. I will appreciate it if you will write me frankly about his situation.



PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

AT

BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK G. KLEREKOPER, MINISTER

July 2, 1938.

Dr. J. M. Somerndike,  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Somerndike,

I have this day made out a draft on the Board to the Cape Smythe Whaling and Trading Co. for the amount of \$37.06 (thirty-seven dollars and six cents). This amount should have been turned in before since it dates back to December 30th, but for some reason we were just now in receipt of the bill. It is the last amount on the building of the warehouse. I am enclosing a copy of the draft.

I am afraid that the deal for the school to use the upstairs of the warehouse next year may be falling through, but am not sure yet. They are going to build a little addition to the present school building and wait to see if the increase in enrollment is permanent. We will be glad to have the room for our own uses, but I knew the money would come in handy to you if we could manage to get along without it. We figured that we would keep the use of most of the shelves, and use the room if we had to after school hours. But I don't know what will happen now.

Sincerely yours,

*F. G. Klerekoper*



Dallas, Texas,  
July 2, 1938.

The Board of National Missions of the  
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.  
pay to the  
Cape Smythe Whaling and Trading Co., Dawson, Alaska,  
the sum of \$37.06 (thirty-seven dollars and six cents) for value  
received.

F. C. Kleschewer  
Missionary in Charge.



PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

AT

BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK G. KLEREKOPER, MINISTER

July 31, 1938.

Dr. J.M. Somerndike,  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Somerndike,

I do not know whether you will receive this letter or the other first, I have written another to you today. When your letter came I tried to think of the local people who might be available and of course Roy came to mind. I say available although as I mentioned before he has a job as manager of the Native Store branch at Cape Simpson. This I suppose, brings him a certain amount of money, maybe three hundred dollars. Then his own trapping which I suppose brings him at least a like amount if not more. There are many things about Roy that makes him outstanding. He has the cleanest largest house in the village, takes good care of his family, a fine tenor voice, and the villagers have thought enough of him to elect him mayor of Barrow although he cannot be here during the winter months. I asked him if he expected to return to Cape Simpson this winter. He said, "Yes". I asked him if an opening to take charge of the Wainwright church should come to him would he consider it. He was thoughtful a moment and asked if it would be alright to give his answer tomorrow. I assured him it would and that the whole thing was merely a possibility. He saw this. Then today after the service he sent his little boy over with this note. I think it speaks for the man, more than I can tell you. I assure you, that when an Eskimo talks this way they are not idle words. If you should think him the better man for the job, I could give him some help in the method of making sermons, etc., in fact I have most of my seminary textbooks here and could go over at least some of them with him. As far as personal work is concerned he already has had experience as an elder here. He usually carried on the work in Cape Simpson when he was there.

I hope this will be of help to you. I have not promised Roy anything so feel free to do what you think best.

With every good wish, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

*Fred Klerkoper*

P.S. The other note he sent some time ago when we went to Wainwright by boat -  
*J.K.*



PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

AT

BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK G. KLEREKOPER, MINISTER

July 31, 1938

Dr. J.M. Somerndike,  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Somerndike,

Your good letters have just arrived on the mail boat and I hasten to answer them. First let me thank you for the kindnesses you showed me during the appendix trouble. The financial help was a blessing. I did not realise our finances were in such a state. Distance makes it very hard to keep our balance straight, with the outstanding checks and the time it takes for the deposit slips to reach us. Then too last year we thought we had better order a year's supply of food in advance just in case the boats did not get in. We have quite a lot on hand now and our orders this year are smaller all around.

If there are any wires which are urgent and yet can wait the time, I will certainly send them by way of Fairbanks. As you will notice we have not sent collect messages of late. Mrs. K. and I are paying them out of our tenth account as a part of our contribution to the mission. I am glad to know of the arrangement you have made with Mr. Youel and will send them that way.

Re-Wainwright. Fred Ipallbok, Percy's brother is now in Barrow with the school here. His job is janitor and assistant teacher and I am sure the remuneration is at least \$1200. He is a fine conscientious young man and I think he would be fine for the job but I do not think he would like to leave his present one. There is a young man and his wife, however, in Kotzebue who are there with the Friends church. They are white and have had two years experience with natives. They were originally Methodists and were trained in the Chicago Evangelistic Institute, I think it is called. They are a fine young couple. I stayed with them while in Kotzebue after the operation. They are earnest as one might expect but not unbalanced. I felt around a bit and I think he might accept an offer. Of course I had nothing to offer so he had nothing to accept. Why I think it would be a good thing to approach him is for this reason also: the year after Percy's return, that is the year 1940 we will have been here four years. If this young man could be gotten for Wainwright for the year that Percy is out and being in the vicinity he might be persuaded to take Barrow for the following year. This is of course a suggestion and much would hinge on the record he made during the year in Wainwright should you see fit to accept him and should he see fit to accept.



I suggest him because I believe he would be able to cope with situation, i.e. Episcopaleans, young people, traders, etc., better than any one we might get locally.

There is this further suggestion: there is a man here who was a school teacher at one time, a native, who is now the mayor of the village so you see he has the capacity for leadership. He is also an elder of the church, one of the best translators we have and a very earnest Christian. His name is Roy Amoagak. He has been managing the branch of the native store in Cape Simpson during the winter months and makes his home in Barrow during the summer. He is a capable man and can read and speak English fluently. To my knowledge he is more capable of handling the Wainwright church than Andrew. He has ~~some~~, a much better command of English. I do not believe that Andrew is the man for the job. He is a conscientious sort of a person but I am afraid there are men in the Wainwright church who know English better (and so their Bibles) and are just naturally keener. I do believe this cannot be said of Roy however.

Of the two men I have suggested, I feel sure the former is the better. I do not know if he could be gotten but I think so. I would be glad to get in touch with him or suggest that he get in touch with you if you think this is wise.

Re- Andrew. Perhaps you know by this time that Andrew is in the village and has been here for some two months. He has undergone an operation for a hernia and is well on the way to recovery. He asked me to come over the other day and help him with his bank account. I found that he is in worse condition financially than I am. He has taken more credit from the stores here and the traders to the east than his salary allows. In fact when we got down to brass tacks he is "in the hole" to the tune of \$1400. This debt has been accumulating for many years. I went over all his accounts with him and found that he has been a bit extravagant. Not according to our standards of living but according to his. I helped him make out a budget and told him about how much it would be wise to spend if he did not wish to get into trouble. It was a real "eye opener" to me as to my own handling of money. His income is as much, if not more, than the people with whom he has to work. According to our standards he does not have much but he has never been used to that. He does have a large family to feed, more than the average. If you do see fit to increase his salary I think it would be wise to begin with four hundred. ~~I~~ He has gone beyond his depth and I do not think he could wisely handle a large increase in salary. I helped him work out a budget that should allow him to pay a little back on his debts. He does make quite some money with his trapping having two boys and two girls that are pretty good trappers.

I must close now as the mail is about to go. I will go over the letters again and will write you again this week as we are to have the coast guard cutter "Northland" if the ice stays out to sea.

I do not know if you can use it but I am sending you a gift which was sent to me by a Canadian friend. It should be orthodox.



Enclosed also please find some snaps.

Sincerely yours,

*Fred H. Henshaw*



Sunday Afternoon.  
July - 1938.

Rev. L. Krukeper:-

This is rather a testimony on my part than anything else concerning the matter you referred to me yesterday.

Years ago a similar incidence happened on the same line of work when Dr. Griest wished it that I work and study so I could be licensed to preach like Percy and Andrew. I did not say yes or no to it at that time. I only prayed and said to my self that it is in the hands of the Lord and that He would make it to pass some day if it was His will. At that time I felt and told God that the work was too sacred and felt my self



unworthy for it. But I had  
wholly left it to God. Now,  
without my expecting any thing  
of the kind, it came up again  
and now I'm fully persuaded  
it is He who is in the wheel  
or rudder of this affair. Shall  
I make some more excuses as  
those of Old Testament days who  
were called out from among the  
people to do the work that He  
wants them to do? Far from  
it. If He wants it thus, I'm  
willing, shall I say, ready, nay  
but willing. My education prevents  
me from saying ready but by  
faith in Him and His Holy Spirit  
I'll say, I'm ready.

My future is not all together



hopeless as the better payment  
in the line of work I'm doing for  
the upkeep of my family. But  
we, <sup>Indians</sup> are not living by sight but  
by faith. I trust the Lord  
will take care of my future,  
so I say, if it is His will He  
will make it to pass and if its  
time <sup>to go</sup> I'm willing.

Sincerely

Roy Ahmaogak

P.S. You will no doubt know that  
much prayer and thought  
been had since you spoke to me  
yesterday.

R. A.



Dear Mr & Mrs. Kunkopf:

O.K. we'll do the best  
we can in looking after the  
business while you are  
away. We trust that  
God will take of you  
and us all while we  
are trying to do His will  
where ever we are. May  
you have a pleasant trip  
and may He bless you  
in your work for Him  
all along the coast.

Yours in the Lord  
Roy A.



# PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

AT

BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK G. KLEREKOPER, MINISTER

August 17, 1938.

Dr. J. M. Somerndike  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Somerndike,

I suppose you hear many stories of the trouble of missionaries, so this one will just help to swell the list. It has been our policy to keep these things to ourselves, rather than to burden you with them, for at best troubles are miserable things. Now, however, they have taken a turn, and are not our troubles only, but seem to have become public property.

I wrote before to you about the telegram you received from the village council which I investigated, but no one knew its nature or else were unwilling to say. It now appears that the same message was sent to the government. The government sent two men up here to investigate conditions. They have been investigating everyone here of the white race except Dr. George, with whom they are staying. Mr. Brower, Mr. Burkher, Mr. Morgan, and apparently myself. Some of the Eskimos have come and told me the questions they have asked. They all pertain to church policy, and as I see it, it is none of their business, although I haven't told them so. For example, it has been the policy of the elders, continuing a custom which existed when I came, and which has never occurred to me to change, to shunt those who were not permitted to partake of communion because of immorality, etc., into the gallery during the communion service. I never said anything about it, and they have continued to do so. Now the malcontents of this condition have told the investigator that I separate the sheep from the goats, in church services.

Another thing which I understand they have complained about is that I make them wait six weeks to be married. This is untrue as to time, for it is only a month, and the rule is not mine, though I encouraged it, but the sessions. Again I have permitted the policy of Dr. Greist to continue in announcing the engagement of a couple a month in advance of their marriage. I have found this a good policy. For example, when on the eastward trip, I married a couple who wanted to be married right away, I later found that the boy was shiftless, going about from camp to camp, since he had no family of his own to sponge on. I met the father of the girl about a day and a half down the trail, and he said that had he been there he would have objected. The young people had both assured me that they had their parents' permission. Another case which Mr. Morgan tells me of is to the point. There was a young man who came to him with a girl and a license, wanting to be married at once. (He was commissioner then.) At the same moment another girl was having a baby in the hospital and he was the father. The marriage was stopped and he married the other girl. They are now living happily together. Another case under my own observation was of a young fellow here who had an understanding



with a girl, and on the strength of it provided fuel and food to her family during the winter. This spring another young man came and said he would like to have me announce the engagement of himself to the girl. I did, not knowing anything about this other arrangement, and at the next session meeting the former young man made a protest. I was very glad I had not married them on the spot. The decision of all parties concerned was that of course the girl should have the young man of her choice, but that if she chose the second one her family should return the food. They agreed to do this. All this business was done through the session. It proved the wisdom of the regulation to announce the engagement. According to the directory of worship of our church (chapter 12, article 6) "the purpose of marriage ought to be published a proper time previously to the solemnization of it. It is enjoined on all ministers to be careful", etc, etc. The wisdom of our Scotch spiritual fathers has been demonstrated time and time again on this far flung field. However, if those who desire a hurry-up marriage so desire, they may go to the commissioner. But the good name of the families involved is often at stake in a hurry-up affair.

I also understand there has been some statements made against my stand on dancing. You undoubtedly remember that in your office ~~the~~ I promised you to have no part in it. This I have done. Dr. Geist used to suspend church members for taking part in Eskimo dancing, on what grounds I do not know, but I have never done this. In fact I made a talk to the people to the effect that the question was one they would have to decide to themselves; that if they felt right about it in their hearts and before God and the Bible, they should go ahead. I also told them my own view was opposed to it. This is also a matter of session record.

I am going into detail on these things because there may be some specific charges brought to your attention. They have called in all the malcontents of the community and lined up charges against everyone. I also understand some one has said I have sold mission property and pocketed the proceeds, especially mission box things. This is a bald lie, and I can only feel sorry for the one who would stop to such a statement. As Mrs. K. and the women who help her will witness, the large bulk of the mission box things are given away at Christmas time. With between five and six hundred people to wrap packages for it is not easy to make things come out even. Some things are left over, (though not much) and some things keep coming in the mails from time to time. The things not given away at Christmas are traded to men who have done some work on mission property, at Native Store prices. Thus last year when the warehouse was being built, we encouraged the men to take as much of their pay as possible in mission box stuff, so as to cut down what we would have to charge the board for. We considered that that was part of the function of the mission boxes. The people still got plenty, sometimes we think too much, given to them at Christmas. In other missions one reads about the people being happy to receive a little bag of candy, of a doll, or some little thing. Here we give to grown ups as well as children, and in the packages of the needy child you would find probably a suit of underwear, enough cloth for a snowshirt, perhaps a dress, or mittens, or stockings, besides toys and books. The same with the adults. The Geists felt, and we feel also, that it not



good to pauperize the people, but that they should be willing to do something in return for what they get. At Christmas we give things away freely. The rest of the time, if possible, we trade the mission box things for work.

As to selling mission box things, we do that, but not for our own profit. We could not see the difference between paying in goods for work done on mission property, and selling some of the things to whites and others who could pay cash, and using the money thus obtained to pay those who do work on mission property. We keep three separate marked purses. One is labeled Personal, another Mission Box, and the last Hymn Books. The Hymn Books which we sell, for fifty cents, just to make the people take better care of them, help us to buy new Hymn Books. We have had many request for books to be taken to the eastward. So far we have refused them, because we have none too many here. But gradually we are getting a few more. We sent for some this summer.

There are a few things which come in mission boxes which we need in the house, and Nan sometimes takes a little of the yard cloth for dresses or snowshirts. Do you feel that we should not do this? We feel justified in so doing because so many of the letters we receive with the boxes ask us what we would like to have for ourselves, or tell us outright that we are to help ourselves, or label certain packages within packages, for us personally. We do not take much, not nearly as much as we could use, and we always let others have first choice. We have sometimes thought we should not do this, but on all other scores our consciences are perfectly clear. Please give us your opinion. We often trade our personal goods, such as flour and sugar, for mission work, too, and very often buy things which we do not want or need, in order to help some one out.

This whole investigation has been hard on everyone, but I would not give you the impression that all the people have been in on it. The instigator of it all is an elder of the church and his brother, whose name is Hopson. They stirred up a lot of trouble for Dr. Greist, as I am sure he would tell you. He is a half-breed who combines the worst features of the white man and the Eskimo. The suspicion he has created through this will take two or three months to overcome b-y the most careful living; for people will now watch our every move. We were encouraged last Sunday night by having a record number of people in church, the highest attendance except for holiday seasons. Three hundred and ninety was the number, and the attendance has been very much higher than usual lately. I hope that this has been a means of showing their confidence.

Very sincerely yours,

Fred Klerekoper



# PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

AT

BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK G. KLEREKOPER, MINISTER

August 18, 1938.

Dr. J. M. Somerndike  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. somerndike,

The enclosed letter was written by Fred yesterday and copied by me at his request this morning. But as I read it over I thought that there were a few things he had not said, which might help to clear things up a bit, so I am adding them under my own name.

Fred left last night to go east as far as Beechey Point. Almost every family from further east than that are already here in town, so he did not figure that going further was worth while. He went with his own boat and the Pandora, the Rogers-Post Memorial Expedition boat, and they are going to have a try at finding the Russian plane while they are there. It seems extremely likely that it sank off of Beechey Point. The Pandora crew wanted to try it, and Fred was glad to go along with them, since he had to go anyway, and it would be much cheaper for him to go along with them --(cheaper for the Board). They are towing our boat, and will use both in the search. They are all equipped with drag hooks and rope, etc. Fred will stop along the way to preach and do his regular literary work. I expect they will be gone about a week if weather is good, maybe two weeks if it isn't.

Now about the investigation: Two men came up, one a lieutenant of the Signal Corps, and the other representing the construction department of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The former has been making inquiries about Mr. Morgan, and the other of the rest of the community. Many false charges have been brought against Mr. Morgan by natives who do not like him, or have been told to say things by others who do not like him, chiefly about misappropriation of government property. We know, from our experience with him, that he is very careful about government stuff and we are confident that he will be able to prove most of the charges false. We feel sure that those at the bottom of it all are Alfred Hopson, Mr. Daughtery (former school teacher) and Dr. George. Alfred Hopson is sore at Mr. Morgan because two years ago when the doctor's house was being built he was found to have been spending time, for which he was being paid, getting up a petition to have Dr. Maurer removed. He was getting all sorts of people to sign it, even children, so we heard. Many of them said afterwards that they did not know what they were signing. Mr. Morgan fired him. Mr. Daughtery was sore at Morgan because he happened to go on furlough the summer after the Rogers-Post crash. They had been promised the furlough before the thing happened, but Daughtery thought they had gone out just for the publicity. He was very jealous of the publicity Morgans got, though Morgans hate it. They avoided it as much as possible, but couldn't help a lot of it. Also during the building of the doctor's house Mr. Morgan suggested to the Indian Office that Mr. D. be put in charge of installing the



furnace, since he is a plumber by trade, but after having worked on it awhile and making a complete mess of it, the office asked to have Mr. Morgan finish it. That did not go so good.

Daughtery had also told the workmen that they should get higher wages, and they struck for them. Morgan got them fifty cents a day more, and told them they could take that or quit. They decided to keep on working. Daughtery was always stirring up the people, trying to get more from the government, and then when it was refused, blaming the government or some one here. That is one reason why the people do not like the present teacher more, who has really done more toward making them able to support themselves that Daughtery ever did, but they worship Daughtery's memory because he was for giving them so much relief supplies, etc. He was always talking about how he was constantly working for them, and leaving a definite impression that the rest of us weren't, and that the reason he was leaving was not because his education was not up to the new requirements, but because we whites had it in for him, and that he was a martyr to the cause of the natives.

Dr. George has worked on the same principle, promising to use his influence to get the community electric light, and a big diesel motored boat for walrusing, and goodness knows what all, so that some of the people think he is quite the thing. Now Morgan's idea, and ours, is not to get more things given to the people, but to develop oil or some other commodity, by which they can get their own things. The doctor has been very busy looking into community business, but has been most remiss about his own affairs. I could give you many specific instances of gross, criminal negligence on his part, in the care of the sick, but perhaps you would not like to hear it all. However, if you do ever need to know specific things about him, I can surely give them to you. It has been impossible to get along with him. Personally I feel sure he is mentally unbalanced. No normal person could do all the queer and vindictive things he does. His wife told me once that he had suffered a very bad skull fracture in playing football, and that it had wrecked his nerves. Maybe that accounts for part of it. Dr. Levine told us once that he was sure he was a paranoic. Since the investigators have been here he has been seen visiting the sick most industriously, some of whom he had not seen for months, and also many a time he has had a little conference with some native about to be questioned by the investigators, in the hospital ~~can~~ shed; and then the native would come out and go into the house. It looks very bad. He has shaken his finger in the face of a native woman who was telling the truth and scared them so they could hardly answer, and when they still truthfully, but weakly, answered "Yes", (Ee, in Eskimo) the doctor turned to the investigator and said, "She says No". He has many of them so scared that they say whatever they think he wants them to. Some of the natives say they like him, but they are ones whom he has been nice to because he has needed them, or because they hope to benefit by his civic improvements. But most of them seem to fear, and some to violently hate him.

Mr. Morgan, like the rest of us, tried to be helpful to the doctor when they first came, but he so rudely refused all offers of help, and made it so clear that he did not want any advice, and then began accusing Morgan of giving out confidential information from telegrams that Mr. Morgan naturally resented it. In some instances it did look, to one who would not bother to inquire, that he had done so, but it was when Morgan had personally received identical information. An ordinary man would have asked, but not the doctor. He never believed an explanation, anyway.



He talks fine. The investigators have been taken in. But if they lived here long enough with him they would find out.

Wouldn't you think that a doctor would be glad to have had Dr. Levine and Mr. Foord here, with their fully equipped laboratory, and would have been interested in seeing the results of their examinations, and have acted on the information contained therein to treat the sick? But although the information was offered to him, he never used it.

Well, they are going to be moved to Bethel in a week or two, thank goodness, but it will take a long time to undo all the damage he has done, and it can never be repaired. I have told you all this and there is much more that I could say, if it would do any good, because I want you to understand that testimony he has instigated against the rest of us is not to be relied upon. Please do not think badly of me for telling you about it. Fred did not want to, because he said it looked badly to run down another worker, but I thought that as long as we were telling you conditions here we ought to let you in on the whole picture.

When Mr. Hirst, of the Indian Office was here last summer, we told him that we had tried to get along with Dr. George, but could not, and that he seemed most unreasonable. He said that the doctor was just distracted, because his wife was going to have a baby, and was not at all well, and that he felt sure that when the baby was born the doctor would prove very different. We waited hopefully, but he was no better, if anything worse. The only peace we had this winter was in sometimes being able to forget him. I know of nothing against Mrs. George, just him.

I guess that is all. It has been a great relief to get this off my mind, and I hope it will do some good.

Sincerely yours,

*Sam Klerkoper*



# News From Point Barrow

~~THE WILL ROGERS-WILEY POST EXPEDITION~~ 15 to Sept. 14, 1932 around  
Barrow, Alaska.

The coming of the Will Rogers-Wiley Post Expedition to Barrow was an occasion for great joy as two of the party were ministers. They are of the Christian Church, one a pastor in Hillsboro, Texas, another an evangelist from the same denomination. I wish you could have seen the three of us, with the other members of the party, carrying gravel and cement up the bluff for the monument. In digging for the base we uncovered an old igloo and found some fine specimens of whale and seal spear heads. The first day of this month's report was set for the dedication of the monument. After the ceremonies these men said they would accompany me on the eastward itinerary as far as Beechy Point. They were interested in searching for the Russian plane, as no search had been made in the vicinity of Thetis and Spy Islands near Beechy Point, and reliable stories had come to us that the plane had been seen there. Storms prevented stopping except at Beechy Point, as there are but few shelters. These men were impressed with the communion services along the way. We could not carry a complete communion service set, so the Eskimos brought our their enamel cups. The bread was left from a loaf Mrs. K. had given us, only a rather dry slice. We only carried hard tack or pilot bread on the "Pandora." The service was in a tent, because people leave their damp sod houses in summer time for these more airy, dry dwellings. The sincerity of the people was felt. Their shyness was somewhat overcome when they realized these men were Christians.

Coming off Beechy Point we dragged the water between the Islands mentioned before for a space of three hundred yards. Imagine trying to find a plane with a wing spread of say a hundred feet in miles and miles of water, with only the meagerest idea where it might be. We set to work with the "Pandora" (as the Expedition's boat was called) and a three horse Johnson motor on the ship's boat, a small row boat. The "Pandora" came all the way from Los Angeles, although she is only a 38 footer, and her skipper, a minister, was the only one on board who knew anything of navigation. We dragged with a rope with grappling hooks a hundred yards apart. The islands are six miles apart and we dragged about two days covering the water between them. Several times we had to give up and run for shelter behind the islands because of heavy winds and the resulting high seas.

On our return home the "Pandora" started at once for the south. We gave them three Eskimo puppies to take home, which they named Walipi (for the place of the crash), Barrow, (for their headquarters), and Beechy (for the most easterly point they reached. They gave me a shot gun which will be used for hunting ducks.

I missed them when they left. I sometimes feel that missionaries are "men without countries". They always long for home, but when they are there they are torn between the enjoyment of old friends, old scenes, and the duties which call them on the field. Which reminds me of the sermon text I preached, ~~THIS ONE THING I DO~~ "This one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind ~~IX XXXXX~~ and reaching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus". That prize is the salvation of our souls through Him Who died and rose again, and although at times we feel the pull of things temporal, yet basically we are built on the rock Jesus Christ, the same yesterday today and forever. And in this we put our hope.



(Report from Barrow continued.)

Mrs. Wiley Post was present at that service, as the North Star, the government boat brought her in. The text was chosen for her benefit, as she was still grieving sorely for the loss of her husband, and the fact that she was here in Barrow did not help matters. *Come to her.*



September 8th, 1938

Rev. Fred. G. Klerekoper  
Point Barrow  
Alaska

Dear Mr. Klerekoper:

I have yours of July 2nd informing me of the draft for \$37.06 from the Cape Smythe Whaling and Trading Co. We shall honor this draft as soon as it comes through the bank.

Before I forget it, I want to tell you how happy I am that you got through your appendicitis operation so satisfactorily. I hope that having this trouble removed will put you on the way to more robust health.

With reference to the Wainwright situation I will say that I am quite favorable to your suggestion that we arrange for Percy to come out in August or September, 1939, in order to take the full year's work at Dubuque, returning in the summer of 1940. You will be coming out in the summer of 1940 and we can then transfer the young couple whom you have in mind for Barrow to occupy that field during your furlough year. I think that is an excellent arrangement. Now, will you kindly let me know what salary we would have to provide for this young couple whom you have in mind? You realize that we shall be obliged to pay Percy's salary during the time he is at school, and we shall also be obliged to provide money for his scholarship at Dubuque while he is taking his additional year of seminary work. It was for this reason that we thought of securing someone on a part-time salary. I will do the best I can, but I would like you to make some inquiries of these young people in order that you may advise us as to the amount of salary that we shall be expected to pay them.

We will increase Andrew's salary to \$400 a year beginning October 1st as you have suggested. Will you kindly advise him of this fact?



I am very grateful to you and Nan for the excellent photographs enclosed with your letter. I am sure I can make good use of them.

Since writing the above, I have received your letter containing the letter written by Roy Ahmaogak, one of the Barrow elders in whom you have implicit confidence and whom you suggest as an alternative to the young couple who belong to the Society of Friends. I was greatly impressed by his letter. It seems to me that it really would be better for our own work if we would use Roy rather than the young couple who belong to the Society of Friends. It would make a better impression upon the people to show them that we have an Eskimo among our Presbyterian elders who is capable of taking a position of leadership, rather than to look outside our own denomination. I am going to leave the matter in your hands and if you feel that Roy will do the job at Wainwright satisfactorily, and if you can entrust him with the care of the work at Barrow during your furlough year I will make arrangements for Percy to come out in September, 1939 (not this year), to take his additional year at Dubuque, returning in the summer of 1940, when you will be coming out for your furlough year. Please write me your final word with reference to this matter.

Faithfully yours,

JLE:PDS



Sept.  
8th  
1938

Dr. James G. Townsend,  
Director of Health,  
Office of Ind. Affairs,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Doctor Townsend:

I have greatly missed my lack of contact with you during recent months. As long as everything seems to be moving along satisfactorily, there are so many other problems that occupy my attention that I fear I am guilty of neglecting you. I often think of you with feelings of deepest appreciation and satisfaction and wish that I could see you oftener.

The purpose of this letter is to share with you some information that has come to me from our missionaries at Point Barrow, Alaska: Mr. and Mrs. Klerekoper. Mr. Klerekoper has written me about the situation in rather a restrained manner, but his wife has written more freely. I know her very well. She is a fine young woman and I am sure that she would not be guilty of misrepresenting the situation in any way. Neither of them want to play the part of missionary martyrs and they are enduring the hardships of the Barrow field not only without any complaint but in a spirit of true sportsmanship. It appears from their letters that the Government sent two men up to Barrow this summer to investigate conditions there. Mr. Klerekoper states that they have been investigating everyone of the white race excepting Dr. George, with whom they are staying. It seems rather unfortunate that the investigation has been carried on from that base, for there is great fear that they have been prejudiced by Dr. George and by some of the malcontents who are anxious to satisfy grudges which they entertain especially toward Leut. Morgan.

I am enclosing a copy of Mrs. Klerekoper's letter. She has been helping as a nurse in the hospital because she is a fully trained registered nurse, whenever she was needed. She is not given to hysteria or to tale-bearing. I am sure that her motive in writing was simply to give me a true picture of the situation, and I am passing it on to you so that you may have it to place side by side with any reports which you receive from the two investigators who were sent up there by the Office of Indian Affairs or by the Department of the Interior.

I am enclosing also a copy of Mr. Klerekoper's letter which deals with matters pertaining to our church policy. Our Presbyterian form of government of course must be followed in dealing with all questions that have to do with the disciplining of the members of a Presbyterian church and with the matter of the marriage relationship, and Mr. Klerekoper very naturally is guided by our Directory of Worship in such matters. I do not entertain for a moment the idea that the government investigators would have anything to say regarding the manner in which Mr. Klerekoper manages his mission, unless he was guilty of violating the moral code in his relation to the natives - which to me is utterly unthinkable, knowing him as I do.



The manner in which the missionary distributes Christmas gifts out of mission boxes that are sent to him is quite beyond the purview of any government investigators, and I suppose that there are very few missionaries anywhere in fields of that kind who are free from criticism on the part of some of their constituents regarding the way in which they distribute gifts. I heartily share Mr. Klerekoper's feeling that entirely too much has been given away by missionaries; and I have often wished that our constituents here in the States would not send so many gifts to mission stations to be distributed among natives whom we are trying to influence to adopt the Christian way of life. It would be far better if we could present the Christian message to these people without influencing their attitude toward Christianity and the Church by the material benefits which they receive through the mission boxes that are sent by well-meaning people here in the States for the missionary to distribute.

It occurs to me to say that you may feel perfectly free to write directly to Mr. and Mrs. Klerekoper for any further information that you may wish to have concerning the local situation. You can depend upon the absolute truthfulness and clarity of any representations that they may make.

With warm personal regards, I am

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH



Y. Barrow, Alaska  
Aug. 18, 1938

Dear Doctor Somerndike:

The enclosed letter was written by Fred yesterday and copied by me at his request this morning. But as I read it over I thought that there were a few things he had not said, which might help to clear things up a bit - so I am adding them under my own name.

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Daughtery had also told the workmen that they should get higher wages, and they struck for them. Morgan got them fifty cents a day more and told them they could take that or quit. They decided to keep on working. Daughtery was always stirring up the people, trying to get more from the Government; and then when it was refused, blaming the Government or someone here. That is one reason why the people do not like the present teacher more, who has really done more toward making them able to support themselves than Daughtery ever did; but they worship Daughtery's memory because he was for giving them so much relief supplies, etc. He was always talking about how he was constantly working for them and leaving a definite impression that the rest of us weren't,



and that the reason he was leaving was not because his education was not up to the new requirements but because we whites had it in for him and that he was a martyr to the cause of the natives.

Dr. George has worked on the same principle, promising to use his influence to get the community electric light and a big diesel-motored boat for walrusing, and goodness knows what all, so that some of the people think he is quite the thing. Now Morgan's idea and ours (also Burkher's) is not to get more things given to the people but to develop oil or some other commodity by which they can get their own things. The doctor has been very busy looking into community business but has been most remiss about his own affairs. I could give you many specific instances of gross criminal negligence on his part in the care of the sick, but perhaps you would not like to hear it all. However, if you do ever need to know specific things about him, I can surely give them to you. It has been impossible to get along with him. Personally I feel sure he is mentally unbalanced. No normal person could do all the queer and vindictive things he does. His wife told me once that he had suffered a very bad skull fracture in playing football and that it had wrecked his nerves. Maybe that accounts for part of it. Dr. Levine told us once that he was sure he was a paranoic. Since the investigators have been here he has been seen visiting the sick most industriously, some of whom he had not seen for months, and also many a time he has had a little conference with some native about to be questioned by the investigators in the hospital coal-shed; and then the native would come out and go into the house. It looks very bad. He has shaken his finger in the face of a native woman who was telling the truth, and scared her so she could hardly answer; and when she still truthfully but weakly answered "yes" (Ee, in Eskimo), the doctor turned to the investigator and said, "She says 'no'". He has many of them so scared that they say whatever they think he wants them to. Some of the natives say they like him, but they are ones whom he has been nice to because he has needed them or because they hope to benefit by his civic improvements. But most of them seem to fear and some to violently hate him.

Mr. Morgan, like the rest of us, tried to be helpful to the doctor when they first came; but he so rudely refused all offers of help and made it so clear that he did not want any advice, and then began accusing Morgan of giving out confidential information from telegrams that Mr. Morgan naturally resented it. In some instances it did look to one who would not bother to inquire that he had done so, but it was when Morgan had personally received identical information. An ordinary man would have asked, but not the doctor. He never believed an explanation anyway. He talks fine. The investigators have been taken in. But if they lived here long enough with him they would find out.

"Couldn't you think that a doctor would be glad to have had Dr. Levine and Mr. Foord here with their fully-equipped laboratory, and would have been interested in seeing the results of their examinations and have acted on the information contained therein to treat the sick? But although the information was offered to him, he never used it.

Well, they are going to be moved to Bethel in a week or two, thank goodness, but it will take a long time to undo all the damage he has done, and it can never all be repaired. I have told you all this and there is much more that I could say if it would do any good, because I want you to understand that testimony he has instigated against the rest of us is not to be relied upon. Please do not think badly of me for telling you about it. Fred did not want to because he said it looked badly to run down another worker, but I thought that as long as we were telling you conditions here we ought to let you in on the whole picture.

When Mr. Hirst of the Indian Office was here last summer, we told him that we had tried to get along with Dr. George but could not and that he seemed most unreasonable. He said that the doctor was just distracted because his wife was going to have a baby and was not at all well, and that he felt sure that when the baby was born the



doctor would prove very different. We waited hopefully but he was no better, if anything worse. The only peace we had this winter was in sometimes being able to forget him. I know of nothing against Mrs. George - just him.

I guess that is all. It has been a great relief to get this off my mind, and I hope it will do some good.

Sincerely yours,

NAN KLEREKOPER



Barrow, Alaska  
Aug. 17, 1938

Dear Doctor Somerndike:

I suppose you hear many stories of the trouble of missionaries so this one will just help to swell the list. It has been our policy to keep these things to ourselves, rather than to burden you with them for at best troubles are miserable things. Now, however, they have taken a turn and are not our troubles only but seem to have become public property.

I wrote before to you about the telegram you received from the village council which I investigated, but no one knew its nature or else were unwilling to say. It now appears that the same message was sent to the Government. The Government sent two men up here to investigate conditions. They have been investigating everyone here of the white race except Mr. George, with whom they are staying.. Mr. Brower, Mr. Burkher, Mr. Morgan, and apparently myself. Some of the Eskimos have come and told me the questions they have asked. They all pertain to church policy, and as I see it it is none of their business although I haven't told them so. For example, it has been the policy of the elders, continuing a custom which existed when I came, and which has never occurred to me to change, to shunt those who were not permitted to partake of communion because of immorality, etc., into the gallery during the communion service. I never said anything about it and they have continued to do so. Now the malcontents of this condition have told the investigator that I separate the sheep from the goats in church services.

Another thing which I understand they have complained about is that I make them wait six weeks to be married. This is untrue as to time, for it is only a month, and the rule is not mine though I encouraged it, but the session's. Again I have permitted the policy of Dr. Greist to continue in announcing the engagement of a couple a month in advance of their marriage. I have found this a good policy. For example, when on the eastward trip, I married a couple who wanted to be married right away. I later found that the boy was shiftless, going about from camp to camp, since he had no family of his own to sponge on. I met the father of the girl about a day and a half down the trail and he said that had he been there he would have objected. The young people had both assured me that they had their parents' permission. Another case which Mr. Morgan tells me of is to the point. There was a young man who came to him with a girl and a license, wanting to be married at once. (He was commissioner then.) At the same moment another girl was having a baby in the hospital and he was the father. The marriage was stopped and he married the other girl. They are now living happily together. Another case under my own observation was of a young fellow here who had an understanding with a girl and on the strength of it provided fuel and food to her family during the winter. This spring another young man came and said he would like to have me announce the engagement of himself to the girl. I did, not knowing anything about this other arrangement, and at the next session meeting the former young man made a protest. I was very glad I had not married them on the spot. The decision of all parties concerned was that of course the girl should have the young man of her choice, but that if she chose the second one her family should return the food. They agreed to do this. All this business was done through the session. It proved the wisdom of the regulation to announce the engagement. According to the Directory of Worship of our Church (chapter 12, article 6) "The purpose of marriage ought to be published a proper time previously to the solemnization of it. It is enjoined on all ministers to be careful, etc., etc." The wisdom of our Scotch spiritual fathers has been demonstrated time and time again on this far-flung field. However, if those who desire a hurry-up marriage, so desire they may go to the commissioner. But the good name of the families involved is often at stake in a hurry-up affair.

I also understand there has been some statement made against my stand on dancing. You undoubtedly remember that in your office I promised you to have no part in it. This I have done. Dr. Greist used to suspend church members for taking part



in Eskimo dancing - on what grounds I do not know - but I have never done this. In fact I made a talk to the people to the effect that the question was one they would have to decide for themselves; that if they felt right about it in their hearts and before God and the Bible, they should go ahead. I also told them my own view was opposed to it. This is also a matter of session record.

I am going into detail on these things because there may be some specific charges brought to your attention. They have called in all the malcontents of the community and lined up charges against everyone. I also understand some one has said I have sold mission property and pocketed the proceeds, especially mission box things. This is a bald lie, and I can only feel sorry for the one who would stoop to such a statement. As Mrs. K. and the women who help her will witness, the large bulk of the mission box things are given away at Christmas time. With between five and six hundred people to wrap packages for, it is not easy to make things come out even. Some things are left over (though not much), and some things keep coming in the mails from time to time. The things not given away at Christmas are traded to men who have done some work on mission property, at Native Store prices. Thus last year when the warehouse was being built, we encouraged the men to take as much of their pay as possible in mission box stuff, so as to cut down what we would have to charge the Board for. We considered that that was part of the function of the mission boxes. The people still got plenty - sometimes we think too much - given to them at Christmas. In other missions one reads about the people being happy to receive a little bag of candy or a doll or some little thing. Here we give to grown-ups as well as children, and in the packages of the needy child you would find probably a suit of underwear, enough cloth for a snowshirt, perhaps a dress or mittens or stockings, besides toys and books. The same with the adults. The Greists felt, and we feel also, that it is not good to pauperize the people but that they should be willing to do something in return for what they get. At Christmas we give things away freely. The rest of the time, if possible, we trade the mission-box things for work.

As to selling mission-box things, we do that but not for our own profit. We could not see the difference between paying in goods for work done on mission property and selling some of the things to whites and others who could pay cash, and using the money thus obtained to pay those who do work on mission property. We keep three separate marked purses. One is labeled "Personal", another "Mission Box" and the last "Hymn Books". The hymn books which we sell for fifty cents, just to make the people take better care of them, help us to buy new hymn books. We have had many requests for books to be taken to the eastward. So far we have refused them because we have none too many here. But gradually we are getting a few more. We sent for some this summer.

There are a few things which come in mission boxes which we need in the house, and Nan sometimes takes a little of the yard cloth for dresses or snowshirts. Do you feel that we should not do this? We feel justified in so doing because so many of the letters we receive with the boxes ask us what we would like to have for ourselves, or tell us outright that we are to help ourselves or label certain packages within packages for us personally. We do not take much - not nearly as much as we could use - and we always let others have first choice. We have sometimes thought we should not do this but on all other scores our consciences are perfectly clear. Please give us your opinion. We often trade our personal goods, such as flour and sugar, for mission work too, and very often buy things which we do not want or need in order to help someone out.

This whole investigation has been hard on everyone, but I would not give you the impression that all the people have been in on it. The instigator of it all is an elder of the church and his brother, whose name is Hopson. They stirred up a lot of trouble for Dr. Geist, as I am sure he would tell you. He is a half-breed who com-



bines the worst features of the white man and the Eskimo. The suspicion he has created through this will take two or three months to overcome by the most careful living; for people will now watch our every move. We were encouraged last Sunday night by having a record number of people in church, the highest attendance except for holiday seasons. Three hundred and ninety was the number, and the attendance has been very much higher than usual lately. I hope that this has been a means of showing their confidence.

Very sincerely yours,

FRED KLEREKOPER



Sept. 1st 1938  
8th month/1st ed. 1938

Rev. Fred. G. Klerekoper,  
Barrow, Alaska

Dear Fred:

I have your letter of August 17th and also Nan's letter of August 18th. This must be considered an answer to both letters. As a matter of fact, I knew nothing about the two investigators which the Government sent to Barrow this summer, and I knew nothing about the situation to which you have referred. I will be frank in saying that no complaints have come to us against either you or Mrs. Klerekoper. Indirectly I have received reports - the truth of which I did not credit for a moment - and I have refrained from taking them up with you because I did not treat them seriously.

Of course the investigators have nothing to do with the affairs that pertain to the business of the church. The manner in which you handle the matter of marrying the natives is something that is left entirely to your own good judgment; and so long as you do not violate any of the provisions of our Directory of Worship, no one could possibly complain. Every church is a unit in itself, and whatever arrangements the pastor and session agree upon - providing they are in harmony with our form of government and Directory of Worship - constitute the final word. It seems almost unthinkable that government investigators should spend any time dealing with questions of that character. Neither do they have anything to do with the manner in which you dispose of the gifts that are sent to you in mission boxes. You are expected to use your own judgment in the disposition of these gifts, and I heartily approve your policy of using some of them as payment for work which the people do, instead of paying them cash. We have always recognized that as being a perfectly legitimate use of the material that is sent in missionary boxes. Of course you are always confronted with the possibility of dissatisfaction in the distribution of Christmas gifts; but no sane person could find any fault with you for the manner in which you handle such matters.

I have taken the liberty of writing to my friend, Dr. Townsend, who is in charge of the medical service in the Washington Office, regarding this whole matter, and I have given him in confidence some of the information contained in Nan's letter regarding Dr. George. It seems to me that it is due him as the one who appoints the physicians in charge of government medical institutions to have this information. He will keep it in confidence and will not embarrass Nan by using it in any way that would involve you or her in any way.

I am sorry that you and Nan have been disturbed by this situation. It all seems to be so childish anyway; but I realize to what large proportions these small matters can grow in a community like Barrow where you are so isolated from other



interests that every little thing that has to do with personal relationships and prejudices becomes a matter of community excitement and gossip. Nothing can shake my confidence in you and Nan. I have said that before and I repeat it with greater emphasis now. I will stand by you always, as I promised to do, and you may be sure that I will never be influenced by anything less than proof of some dereliction - of which I know that both of you would be quite incapable.

With best wishes and regards, I am

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH



September 16th, 1938

Rev. Fred G. Klerekoper  
Barrow  
Alaska

Dear Fred:

I think you will be greatly comforted by a copy of a letter from Dr. Townsend, Director of Health in the Office of Indian Affairs which I am enclosing herewith. I know Dr. Townsend very well. He is a lovely gentleman and very sympathetic toward our missionary work. He has always been very cooperative. I think that this letter explains the presence of the investigators at Barrow and will free your mind from any suspicion that they were sent to investigate any of the affairs of our mission or of yourself. I hope that the new doctor who has arrived will prove to be the kind of man with whom you and Lieutenant Morgan can cooperate in a helpful way. I know that you will do everything possible to develop a cooperative spirit for the sake of the natives, as well as for your mutual happiness.

With best wishes, I am

Faithfully yours,

JMS:PDS



C O P Y

September 14th, 1938

Mr. J. M. Somerndike  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Somerndike:

I have received your recent letter enclosing copies of communications from Mr. and Mrs. Klerekoper of Point Barrow, Alaska, relative to the recent visit of a representative of the Indian Office and a representative of the War Department.

The Indian Office representative referred to is Mr. Earl D. McGinty, who was appointed recently as Supervisor of Construction in Alaska. His duties include the supervision of construction of Indian Service hospitals in Alaska, and he was sent to Point Barrow to inspect our new hospital building and ascertain how construction has proceeded and assist Mr. Brower, who as you know was appointed as Supervisor of Construction on the job.

The Office received a number of telegrams alleging irregularities in connection with the construction of the staff quarters and making charges against Mr. Brower and Lieutenant Morgan. Mr. McGinty was accordingly instructed to find out all he could with reference to these charges while at Point Barrow. Evidently the War Department also sent a representative to Point Barrow at the same time to look into the charges against Lieutenant Morgan. The report of the Indian Office representative has not yet been received.

The Health Division enters into the picture only as far as our physician at Point Barrow may be involved. While we have not received definite word from Alaska, I assume that Dr. Sher arrived at Point Barrow on the NORTH STAR, together with the two representatives referred to above, and that Dr. George has left Point Barrow, coming out on the NORTH STAR. With this change in physicians I am hoping that the situation will improve and that Mr. Klerekoper and Lieutenant Morgan will be able to cooperate with Dr. Sher to the fullest extent and he with them.

Thank you very much for your letter and its enclosures. I hope I may have the pleasure of seeing you in Washington in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. G. TOWNSEND

Director of Health



PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

AT

BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK G. KLEREKOPER, MINISTER

October 14, 1938

Dr. J.M. Somerndike,  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Somerndike,

Enclosed please find twenty dollars (\$20.00) which Mr. O.D. Morris has paid on his former debt to the hospital. This leaves a balance of fifty-six dollars and ninety-three cents (\$56.93) according to my figures, plus the interest. I have given him a receipt.

Sincerely yours,

*F. G. Klerekoper*

P.S. — Nov. 2, 1938.

Dear Dr. Somerndike,

Mr. Morgan wants

to sell his snowmobile, garage and spare parts for \$250. The machine is not new and needs some minor repairs. There are enough parts here to put it in fair condition. I believe it would be useful and should it prove otherwise, I know of a native who will buy the motor for \$100 and I am sure the garage could be sold at any time for another hundred. Please let me know at once as the Native Store will take it if we don't. Sincerely, *Fred Klerekoper*

P.P.S. The body and truck could be used as a trailer should the boat see fit to send a new second motor.  
J.K.



27<sup>5</sup>  
October 20th, 1938

Rev. Fred G. Elerekeper  
Barrow  
Alaska

Dear Fred:

In a letter from Miss Bannan received today she refers to the possibility of taking a furlough next summer. She also states that you are planning to take a furlough at the same time. Miss Bannan must be mistaken about your plans to come back to the States on a furlough next year, because under the Board's rule you are granted a year's furlough after each five years of service, and you will not have been in Barrow five years next summer.

I am waiting for a reply from you also with reference to Percy Ipalook coming back to Dubuque and taking another year of work. I would like to have him come out next summer and take his year of work in Dubuque, as I wrote you, but I am wondering what provision can be made to take care of his work during his absence. Will you kindly let me know whether you have any suggestion to make regarding this matter?

Faithfully yours,

JMS:PDE



# PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

AT

BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK G. KLEREKOPER, MINISTER

Nov. 1, 1938

Dr. J.M. Somerndike,  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Somerndike,

It seems a long time since I addressed a letter to you and time has continued to bring with it many changes and joys of which I must tell you. You will no doubt remember in my last letter that we were bemoaning the fact that the troubles in this field might have to become public. Since that time the boats have come and gone and taken with them the greatest source of our trouble and brought us much satisfaction. The trouble was Dr. George who no one in the village was able to get along with and I am sorry to have to include myself in that list. But he is gone and the satisfaction we now have takes the form of the new doctor, Dr. Scher. He is Jewish and has none of the Christian background that we would like to see in a doctor here but he is reasonable and a gentleman, two virtues much needed in a physician in so small a village as ours.

To go back to the trouble, it turned out to be an investigation of Mr. Morgan and Mr. Brower for alleged misdealings. Mr. Morgan has been completely exonerated by his office and Mr. Brower has been relieved of his position as foreman of construction on the hospital building. The natives who started this have not reached their desired ends. The one most active, Alfred Hopson, an elder of the church and president of the Reindeer Company feels ashamed of his actions I am sure. The people are beginning to understand his motives better and if I am not mistaken he will be relieved of his office as president in the near future. He has not been attending the meetings of the Session of the church since June although he has continued to attend church. The elders are feeling this and have made remarks in the session meetings to that effect saying that the people are losing confidence in him. On the other hand the elders have been solidly with me as are the people of the church and what he ever he has said or done it has had little effect of a permanent value. For a time I admit I was in a quandry. I am sure you understand that it is easier for people of another race to become suspicious of a man rather than one of their own race. Time has proven that the whole thing was a farce but primitive people are not long sighted.

The Christmas packages from the friends in the States were larger and more numerous than before which gave us cause to be thankful again for the new warehouse. The paint spray



came in fine shape and as soon as the weather permits the buildings will get their much needed cover. The new stove parts arrived and will soon be installed and Mr. Morgan and I have completely overhauled the Kohler and put in the new magneto. No more cranking. All Nan has to do is turn the switch and the lights go on. Strange as it may seem that is a great satisfaction. We missed Captain Backland this year and hope that he will come next year. Some of the things in our order went astray but we will be able to manage. For example, we did not receive any vegetable and were envisioning a year with noodles etc. instead of potatoes, no eggs, bacon and the like. Captain Whitlam of the North Star is a good friend of ours and when he heard of it sent in word that we could get our year's supply from the ship's stores if we would replace them in Nome. We were only too glad to do this. That night we ate our fill of potatoes, and carrots and the next morning we had fresh grapefruit.

In connection with the church work there are two new things which we have introduced that we hope will make things better. I was reading a book not long ago called "The Elder and His Work" published in 1883 in Scotland by David Dickinson and by our Board of Publication and Sabbath School Work in 1902, you may be acquainted with it. It mentioned the fact there that the parishes of Scotland are divided into districts with an elder in charge of each. We have divided the town into districts and the elders have been having wonderful results. Matters of faith and Christian living have come to light that were not evident before. The Elders are taking their work seriously and are helping the people a great deal. This has given me much material for sermons and helped a lot in visitation. The other thing which we have done is to inaugurate the system of tithing. Barrow had its first Every Member Canvass two weeks ago Sunday and there was not one person that was not willing to do it. There are many problems connected with this and I am writing to Dr. Weber for suggestions. For example, there are only two men in the congregation that draw salaries. The rest are hunters and trappers. I do not believe you could gather twenty dollars in cash in all the natives homes in the village. How shall we handle such things as seal skins when the only way the stores handle them is with trade goods? What shall we do with walrus meat, reindeer etc.? It will take time to see the way clear on this but I am sure it will come. It has been a time of faith testing for some of the people where there is real poverty. Nan and I have tithed ever since we drew our first salary and that is a good talking point. The Sunday evening following the canvass we had a consecration service. I wish you could have been there.

I am expecting to go to Wainwright next Monday if the conditions of travel permit. We have no ice in the ocean at present and haven't seen an iceberg since August. This will make travelling difficult but I think we will get there.

Very sincerely yours,

*Fred Gluckoper*



Mr. Klerekoper

## Narrative of Labors in and Around Barrow, Alaska.

This has been a busy month in Barrow. With the beginning of school came the new teachers, Mr. and Mrs. Burkher and their children. Mr. Burkher brought with him a team of very fast dogs which were used for racing near the city of Nome. Of course the people were shy at first as Eskimos always are about meeting strangers. But they soon learned to know this fine family. When Mr. and Mrs. Burkher came to church the people knew at once that they had one good point because in Barrow people go to church regularly. We have as high as two hundred at prayer meeting, Sunday school, Morning worship, afternoon service and evening worship.

Many of our people are exposed to and die with tuberculosis. Even the best leaders in our community get it. When Dr. George knows of a case he at once advises then to be put in the isolation houses which have been built in the village. These sod houses are warm and comfortable. One of the things the people <sup>people</sup> like is to sing and hear singing. Often after the morning service someone suggests that we go to a sod house and sing for one or another of the shut-ins. Fifty to sixty will often encircle a house to sing the songs of comfort to the lonely, joy to the sorrowful, hope to the downcast. My heart goes out to these sufferers with their slowly wasting bodies and energies. If only something could be done about it. A sanitarium with proper food and care would cause many to recover who will die under present conditions.

Here is something which I do not suppose many people think about when they are packing "mission boxes" for Barrow. The wood is one of the most useful things about the box. It is used to make shelves, floors, tables and the like. Several men who are too old to get their own wood from ~~up~~ the beach sent little boys to our house to ask for wood. That is where the mission "boxes" go. The contents of the boxes are put up on the shelves of the fine new warehouse until Christmas time. Then no one in the village is forgotten. Whenever a new baby is born a complete outfit is given it with which to start life. It is a happy thought that God's goodness, begun when the child was given life, is continued in the first act of kindness toward the baby on earth, by those who love Him and His followers in far away lands.

I mentioned the new warehouse in the above paragraph. It is the joy of our lives and not ours only. Here Mrs. Klerekoper and her assistants work just before Christmas seeing that the many members of the many families get something. After Christmas the large "upper room" will serve as a place to wash the children and their clothes for this will be the "Mothers' Club Room". Here once a week the mothers will come with their babies in their parkas to give them baths. They will be given milk and mush for their babies and hardtack and tea for themselves. Downstairs is the tractor room. We now have a stove in to heat the tractor with which is much safer method of warming it up than the open flame burners. There is also a storage room for hardware and a coal room. This place will be the center of many activities. It is large enough to accommodate all the whites at Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner. It may also serve as a dormitory for expeditions to the far north such as is now being planned by Sir Hubert Wilkins in search of the lost Russian fliers.



November 1st, 1938

Rev. F. G. Klerekoper  
Point Barrow  
Alaska

Dear Mr. Klerekoper:

You have brought to me something new under the sun! I never knew that there was such a thing as a "Presbyterian mixture." Never again shall I be apologetic for my indulgence in what I choose to call my pet vice, namely, smoking. If an eminent Scotch divine can get away with it, far be it from me to apologize for sharing the same weakness.

Faithfully yours,

JME:PDS



*Handwritten: Fairmount*  
*Handwritten: 21st*  
Dec.  
21st  
1938

Rev. Fred. G. Klerekoper,  
Pt. Barrow, Alaska

Dear Fred:

I have your letter enclosing \$20 paid by Mr. Morris on his debt to the hospital. I have turned the money order over to our Treasurer and it will be credited in our current accounts.

*Handwritten: No*  
*Handwritten: 21st*  
I am willing to buy the snowmobile, garage, and spare parts which Lt. Morgan offers for \$250. I will send you a check for this amount but it is with the understanding that you will look the machine over carefully and make sure that it is going to be useful to you. It is a good deal of money to spend for any kind of equipment unless we are sure that it is going to be worth that much money to us in comfort and convenience. I must rely entirely upon your judgment in the matter, and I want to be absolutely sure that your deliberate judgment confirms the wisdom of the purchase.

I have read with much interest your letter of November 1st which arrived today. Since reading this letter, my conscience is very much relieved because I was afraid that I had done Dr. George a great injustice in demanding that the authorities in Washington remove him from Barrow. From what you have written about Dr. George, it seems that I had the right hunch and that his departure has really been beneficial to the whole community. I am sure that you will work in close cooperation with the new doctor and I hope that in spite of the fact that he has a Jewish background you may find that you have enough in common to make your fellowship with him congenial.

I deplore the investigation that was necessary and the results of it which have more or less discredited Mr. Brower and which seem now to reflect upon the purity of the motives of Mr. Hopson, an elder in our church. It seems that the Eskimos are pretty much like the Indians here in the States. They have learned all the vices of the white man but few of his virtues, and they seem to take a delight in getting into any kind of a subtle mixup which will discredit someone else. I hope that Hopson will be able to live it down so that his influence in the church and his example as a Christian leader will not be hurtful to those who are younger in the Christian life.



I am sorry that you did not receive all of the supplies that you ordered. I really wish that you would send me a statement of the things that were missing so that we can check up with the bills and demand a refund from the Seattle stores where the articles were purchased. I hope you will do this.

I am delighted to learn that you are giving your congregation some real training in the organization and work of the church. Surely they need to know more about the genius of the church, its message, program, and real purpose in the world. They need to understand also its significance in the light of the Scripture, and its relation to the building of the Kingdom of God. I think that your idea of dividing the village into parishes, giving each elder a certain number of families of whom he will be the leader in spiritual things, is a very excellent idea. It ought to work well under such conditions as prevail at Barrow. It will keep these elders spruced up to their very best, and it will provide a fine opportunity for them to become teachers of the people in things that pertain to the church and the Christian life.

I recognize the difficulty you have in making good the pledges which the people have made in the every-member canvass. Would it not be possible for you to make arrangements with the trader to take their seal-skins, walrus meat, reindeer, etc., for cash so that they would be able to pay the cash over to the church to make good their pledge? That seems to me to be the only way that their pledges could really be paid so that they would be useful for church support and benevolences.

I am anxious to know several things about your future plans. First, will you please let me know definitely when you expect to come to the States next year for your furlough. Second, please let me know what plans you would suggest to take care of the Barrow church during your absence. Third, do you recommend that Percy Ipalook be permitted to come out also next summer to take a year of additional study at Dubuque or would you prefer to defer his furlough until 1940, letting him look after the work at Barrow during your absence with permission to make occasional visits to Wainwright. It is absolutely necessary for me to know about these things at the earliest possible moment.

With best wishes, I am

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH



Dec.  
23rd  
1938

Mr. John H. Scheide,  
Titusville, Pa.

Dear Mr. Scheide:

Knowing your interest in Fred and Nan Klerekoper, I am enclosing a copy of a letter which I have received from them and which I am sure you and Mrs. Scheide will be very much interested in reading.

I am glad the map arrived safely and trust that Mrs. Scheide will find it satisfactory for use in connection with her presentation of Alaska work to her women's organization.

With very best wishes, I am

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BE



Barrow, Alaska  
Sept. 31, 1938.

Dear Friends,

I suppose you all think, as we did before we had lived here, that little happens on the top of the world, and perhaps that is true, but when one is involved in everything that does happen, it makes it seem like a lot. So already another year has slipped by, and here we are, unquestionably a year older, and possibly a year wiser. Now we wish we were wise enough to tell you a whole year's news in the course of one letter, but the state of our wisdom being what it is, we will content ourselves by touching on a few highspots.

We had a beautiful spring, and once the ice went out that was all we saw of it. It has not reappeared. About a week ago we had a calm day, a rarity lately, and the sea started to freeze, so that we had a wintry seascape for the day, but then the wind and current took it off again. Siberia must be piled high with ice, since all of ours seems to have gone in that direction.

As soon as we could, we got our boat into the water, and Fred made his regular summer trip to Wainwright. Nan and several others went along. We got off our course a little, into a big lagoon, and that put us so behind schedule that we were unable to beat a windstorm. The coast between here and Wainwright is strewn with wrecks, and we thought that our boat ribs might soon be weathering alongside them. Finally, five miles short of Wainwright, Fred decided to beach, for safety's sake. So we all jumped out as the boat struck the beach. By good fortune she did not turn sideways to the breakers, and we were able to haul her up out of harm's way. The water was rising, however, as it does with an on-shore wind, so one of the girls walked into town to get more help. The rest of us put up the tent and got some sleep. About seven in the morning a gang of men came out and hauled us out so far that when the water went down again we were high and dry for sure. It was a long tramp into Wainwright, up and down all the way, with a strong wind in our faces, and we were tired and pretty hungry. We had a nice time once we got there, and no trouble coming home. The storm had washed up on the beach numerous dead walrus. We stopped at several, and salvaged one pair of tusks and one whole oogruk (bearded seal) which we pulled onto the bow and brought home. The meat went for dog-food, and the skin was divided up, as the custom is, among the crew for boot soles.

The mail boat had come in while we were away, so we had a lot of mail. After that the big boats started coming in. Two Canadian boats passed us, and besides the Northland (on which we saw a movie) and the North Star, we had a visit from a new boat, a little forty-footer from Los Angeles, named Pandora. It had come all that way with a crew of five men, only one of whom knew anything of navigation, to put up a memorial to Will Rogers and Wiley Post. The envelopes in which these letters will be mailed are ones to commemorate the event. We enjoyed their company a great deal. Two of the men were ministers, and that companionship was a rare treat. We helped them out all we could with the monument work, and they were fine about helping in the church services. We had a stamp-licking bee one night, and I don't know how many thousand stamps we attached to envelopes which were all bought by stamp collectors. Those envelopes were postmarked on the fifteenth of August.

Fred was very anxious to follow up a clue as to the possible location of the lost Russian plane, and the Pandora crew were also interested, so they took a hurried



trip east to Thetis Island. Since Nan did not go along, the following is Fred's account of that trip.

Each of us took a turn at the wheel for three hours. My turn came just as it was getting dusk, and I knew by the dark objects that came up and went down in the path of our boat that the seals were not unaware of our passing. The first morning, the wind came up and the sea was pretty choppy. It is harder to get east of Barrow, although in this case east is also south, than it is to get to Barrow. The east-west currents are dangerous, the north winds make the possibility of being crushed by ice floes a greater danger, and there are practically no shelters. We found a lot of ice as we rounded the Point. We stopped to take on water from a lake on shore and to see how my boat, anchored in a lagoon, was; then on again toward Thetis Island, talking shop most of the way with the two ministers. In spite of the choppy sea, a boat-load of natives came out from Koluvik to see us. They knew who I was, and were not as bashful as they were of the strangers.

Arriving at Thetis, we set to work dragging for a possible plane with large treble hooks, made of half-inch galvanized pipe attached to a half-inch rope that must have been a hundred yards long. We hooked one end of this to the Pandora, and the other we took in her ship's boat. This was a little sort of row-boat, with a three-horse Johnson outboard motor on the stern. John Kayser and I were elected to use this little boat. As I have said, the sea was choppy. With icy water all about us, and with the heavy weight and drag of the line and hooks to hold us, the prospect was not pleasing. We put on life preservers and set out. We bobbed around, but the boat was really too small to pull such a load. To add to our troubles, the stern was held down so far that the waves kept washing in. John ran the motor, and I didn't have a spare minute from bailing. Our parkas were soaked after two hours of this, and we were both glad when they called us to dinner and the Pandora ran behind the island for shelter. We searched as best we could, the entire distance between Thetis and Spy Islands, but found nothing. We thought we had something once - a spot where the compass spun around, but it proved to be caused by the light-meter in the pocket of the skipper, who is a picture fan.

On our way home we stopped and had communion with the native people at the only place where the weather permitted us to stop, and Rev. Roy Curtis of the Christian Church of Hillsboro, Texas, brought the message. The service took place in a tent, and as we had no grape-juice with us we used some of Roy's prune-juice. The ship carried no bread, only hard-tack, but we managed to find a rather dried crust of bread from a loaf Nan had given us when we started. In spite of it all, I do not think communion was ever held more solemnly than this one, with fifteen people all told and the "wine" served in enamel cups.

On the way back we ran out of water, and not knowing where to get any on shore we ran alongside of a big iceberg and got from a pool on it a fine lot of sweet water.

Our old standby, Capt. Backland's schooner Holmes, did not come up this year, and at the last minute the Patterson took its place. This resulted in a good deal of confusion, and we would not now be having any fresh foods at all (potatoes, onions, oranges, etc.) if the North Star's steward, "Sig", had not been kind hearted and given us all we needed of the ship's stores, to be replaced in Nome. Oh - we did get some fine fresh things, like carrots, cabbages, etc., from Unalakleet, a little below Nome, where there are fine gardens. The Patterson made the trip this year in three weeks from Seattle, which is very fast when compared to the three months of the Holmes, so that if it continues to come up we will be able to get all the fresh things we want straight from Seattle.

The North Star brought us some new friends. We have a new doctor, new



nurse, and additional school teacher, and temporarily a man to finish constructing the hospital. Our white population has also increased because of an additional trading family, the Morrisses, who have moved here from Cape Halkett, east of here. Our whites now number 20 or 21. Due to the failure of the Morris' new boat motor at a critical moment, they have no house to live in and five of them and a native girl are crowded into our little one-room igloo, which last year served as a laboratory, and was meant this year for a workshop.

Just before the North Star came in, a pup was born to one of the Burkher's dogs, which now makes his home here. We named him Paterson, Pat for short, because his first home here was in a big wooden box from Paterson, N. J. He keeps us jumping. He ought to be a good dog, if parentage is anything. His father is Siberian, and his mother - though not of any special breed - was bred for racing, and has been in some of the races around Nome. We think Pat will be fast and are very sure he is intelligent. He was practically white when we got him, with a gray stripe down his back and tail, and gray lines between and around his eyes. He is getting a little darker now, but we think he will eventually look well as a leader for our team of blacks. His ears are very long, and stick straight up like a rabbit's. He is getting old enough now to be somewhat of a problem child, but on the whole he is very good. He doesn't gnaw the furniture, and if we keep our boots, stockings, socks and slippers in the bathtub, they are safe.

The boats had no trouble getting in this year, with no ice in sight all summer, but it is a treacherous country for boats, as we can testify. One morning about a month after the Pandora had left, our chore boy woke us to say there was trouble with the boat. I had loaned the boat to a widow woman who has to help support an old grandmother, her mother and small sister, besides her own child. She needed to get some drift wood, and the weather was fine, so she got a couple of men who knew the boat to run it and help her. When they had gotten back it was late and still calm and they had not unloaded the boat or hauled it up on the beach, though she had urged them to do so. Well, up came a sudden storm, like they do this time of year, and the men tried for an hour to wake us, unsuccessfully, before Harold came in and knocked on our room door. When Fred finally got on the scene, our launch looked a wreck. It had been a very useful little boat getting feed for the people and the dogs, giving a lot of pleasure as well as doing a lot of work. But that morning, the waves were breaking over her and making pile drivers of the wood, part of which had floated out. A whaling spear that was in it was driven through the bottom, and she sank on the beach. Full of sand and water, it was almost impossible to pull her out. The men who had left her there worked as hard as they could, getting themselves soaked in that icy water more than once; and finally with the help of many men and the mission and government tractors, we got her out and up on the beach. All the super-structure, which had supported a tarpalin for shelter, was broken off, a number of the boards broken or sprung, and how we will get her fixed up to work next summer it is hard to tell. It is not an impossible thing to do, since fortunately none of the ribs were broken, but we are almost washed up on boats.

Winter is coming late this year. For the last week we have had steady high winds, but not much below freezing. There is not much snow on the ground except in some drifts. Most of it has been blown off, and the slippery ice from a thaw makes treacherous footing. We are thankful for it, for it is also so warm further south that the mail is being delayed. We never yet have had time to write all we should before the mail, and any delay in its outgoing is always welcome, though it is the other way around when we are expecting it in. We wanted to answer a lot more of your letters than we are going to be able to this time. Please forgive us. Maybe you can blame a lot of it on the Christmas cards which have taken more time than the results warrant.



Those of you who know the Bruen branch of the Klerekoper family will be happy to hear, if you have not already, that Harriette is getting married the tenth of this month, to Bill Davis. Although he is not a Korea Kid or even a China Kid, he seems to be very nice, and we hope that any of you who know him will hurry up and write us, telling us all about the wedding and all details. Please don't forget one.

And now we go to press with many wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Many of them.

FRED AND NAN KLEREKOPER



PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

AT

BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK G. KLEREKOPER, MINISTER

Dec. 31, 1938.

Dr. J. M. Somerndike  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Somerndike,

On this mail we are sending out our orders for the year directly to Mr. Gould. There will be a plane in here the first of February bringing a man to inspect the hospital, and on that we may have a few more small orders to send out that we haven't had time for this time.

Most of the items on the orders are personal, but there are a few items on the end of the Montgomery Ward and Schwabacher orders which we have put down to be charged to the Mission, and I want to explain my part of those to you.

First, we ordered the following from Montgomery Ward because we found them cheaper than Sears:

12 blue willow cups, 6 saucers, 12 bread and butters, 12 dinner plates, 12 glasses. Blue willow is the pattern of the dishes here already, except for one good and almost complete set which we save for best because I am not sure that replacements can be made in it. The "every day" blue willow set is about gone, so that we are very short.

Then I have put down a cake decorator. Perhaps you will want to cross that off, and if so, it will be all right. And a gallon of floor wax for the linoleum.

From Schwabacher Bros. we put down a half dozen brooms, 100 pounds of raw peanuts and a 25 lb. sack of popcorn. We had no peanuts sent in this year, and not nearly enough popcorn to fill the sack we give out at Christmas. We popped all we could beg from the neighbors, and most of our own, to eke out what had come in Mission boxes, and at that we could only put in each sack a cup of popcorn and 15 pieces of hard candy -- and two peanuts. Well, that was enough, and if we are short next year we will just not give it to all the people in the village, as we did this time.

The things from Wards mount up to \$18.46, with the rope hoist which Fred will tell you about, but I don't know how much the things from Schwabacher's will come to; probably not very much.

We have both been over our ears in letter writing for the past few weeks. Fred has a harder time than I do about it, because he has all his regular work to do besides this extra, while I can let Hester do all the housework, and spend my whole time at letters. It is a good thing I can do that, too, or I would never get through. I haven't yet finished my thank-yous to the Missionary Societies.

Sincerely yours,

*Fau Klerekoper*



PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

AT

BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK G. KLEREKOPER, MINISTER

February 28, 1939

Dr. J.M. Somerndike,  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Somerndike:

I am glad you liked the "Presbyterian Mixture". Perhaps you noticed I opened it and tried a pipe full. I must say there is something sturdy about the Scotch and if this is their ~~orthodox~~ tobacco I am afraid the ~~unorthodox~~ brand would be a little more than I could stand. Perhaps "Presbyterian Straight" would be better than the "Mixture".

I cannot begin to tell you how happy we are at the thought of going on furlough this year. I have never had the opportunity of meeting Nan's parents. I did write and ask her father for her hand but the whole family relationship has been via the mails. It will be a real treat to meet them. Of course Nan is more than anxious, it being seven years since she saw them. We would like to make Princeton our headquarters and if possible get some courses under Dr. Brunner who we understand is giving the church things to think about.

This brings me to a point that has been on our minds. There are many societies who are interested in Barrow Mission. We would like to make this relationship as vital as possible and have been wondering what would be the best method. Should we have some such place as Princeton as headquarters and travel to the near outlying towns? Should we plan to travel farther than one could reach conveniently on week ends? Are there any funds available for travel or would these have to be asked as a prerequisite to our coming? We have made a list of the places which have sent mission boxes and Miss Vint has sent us a list of those who are financially interested. There are 137 places which have sent mission boxes in the last three years. They stretch from New York to Washington. The list that Miss Vint sent us as financially interested in Barrow numbers 99. This includes individuals, S.S. classes, churches, and missionary societies. These too, are scattered all over the U.S. This is an old list of financial givers but I think Miss Vint could give you a more up-to-date list. We would like to make those who send the mission boxes as intelligent about Barrow as possible so their gifts will not include such things as corsets and muffs. Certainly those who have given money for this place will be interested in the pictures, etc. we have and will want to do more for a place about which they know. Perhaps you have some plans for seeing these people. If so it will determine whether we enroll for courses at the seminary. We would like to do the latter to keep mentally abreast of the time and use the year profitably.



*from Seattle*

About traveling from Barrow to the States: This is a difficult problem. It has been rumored here that the Northland, the Coast Guard cutter will not be coming up this year. If this is true the only other boat of any size is the North Star. On her way to Barrow the North Star wastes no time. On the return trip she stops at Kivalina for about two weeks and waits for the local people to kill deer to be taken to the various stations along the way and some for Seattle. They usually get to Seattle about Christmas time. There are boats that run to Nome every month during the summer belonging to the Alaska Steamship Company. From Nome it is not hard to get to the States. If there should be a mail plane in here about the time we leave it would be cheaper to take it than to spend a couple of months between here and Nome at \$3.00 a day apiece. There is the possibility of one of the smaller boats coming up here with mail early in the spring. They do not as a rule carry passengers, because they do not have the accommodations nor the license. The Patterson that brought our freight last year was wrecked on her way south. If she would have come this year it would have made a good way to get to the States. She had cabin space and took passengers. They had intentions of encouraging this part of the business. The only other way out is to fly which is very expensive. It cost me three hundred dollars one way to Kotzebue for my appendectomy. Should the mail plane come about July or August we probably could go out on it quite reasonably, for about half of what it would cost otherwise. To sum up this complicated situation this seems the best way: To fly from here to Nome if there is a mail plane, or if there should be a small boat that would take us, or to take the North Star and arrive in Nome whenever she does. From Nome there are boats every month to Seattle.

The last time we came to the the States you arranged a pass for me from Seattle to Chicago via the Milwaukee line. Mr. Gould or Dr. Thompson managed to get an eastern clergy ticket. Could this be arranged again?

It cost us \$90.00 apiece to come to Barrow from Seattle on the North Star but as I said before we came direct. I think it will cost about twice as much to get home if not more. Certainly to go back by the North Star would be the most expensive way of all.

We have done an audacious thing. We have told our friends if they do not hear from us before the middle of June as to our whereabouts to write us in care of your office. If this will cause too much inconvenience we can get in touch with some of our relatives on Long Island and have them re-route it to wherever we are.

Roy has been coming every day since your telegram and we hope to have him in shape to carry on the work by the time we leave. We are just going into homiletics having finished a combined course on theology and apologetics. Would it be possible to arrange to have Roy licensed by the Yukon Presbytery at this distance? I think it would raise his status with the people here.

We understand now that there are to be three planes in here in the near future. I hope that we may be able to answer your incoming letters and perhaps ask some more questions.

With best wishes and regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

*Fred Kluckhohn*



*Handwritten:* Mrs. T.V.C.

BARROW MISSION  
Barrow, Alaska

March 2, 1939

Dear Friends of Barrow Mission:

This is to let you know, in case you do not know already, that the Board has offered us a year's furlough, to begin this summer. Although we did not expect it at this time, after thinking it all over we decided to accept, and now that it is decided, we are very happy about it. Not only will we be able to see my father, step-mother and baby brother, who will also be on furlough this year from Korea, and our other relatives and friends, but we are especially looking forward to the possibility of seeing at least some of you good people with whom we have so often corresponded. Won't it be fun to see in the flesh those whose spirits we have dimly seen through their letters? We would like to live in a trailer, so we could get around to you - everyone! I suppose that will be hardly possible, seeing that you are scattered through thirty-four states and one Canadian province, but we would surely like to and will do the best we can to accomplish it.

While we are away, Roy Amoagak, one of our elders, will be in charge here. Mr. Klerekoper is doing all he can to train him in this short time we have, and we feel sure he will be able to carry on allright. He will be able to confer with Percy Ipalook of Wainwright, if anything too hard comes up. He is an ex-school teacher, with a large and exceptionally attractive family, and even two grandchildren, although he is not so old as that might sound. He is very capable, and has a fine spirit. We hope that you will support him in your prayers and in the work as you would us, or even more so. He will acknowledge the mission boxes you send, but as he will have a heavy load, and owns no typewriter, please do not expect him to answer letters unless they are very urgent.

The following year, Percy Ipalook plans to go to the States for further study, and during his absence Roy will probably transfer down there.

Andrew Akootchook, whose name you have also seen in the Prayer Calendar, has been here this past fall and winter. He has had one operation for a minor ailment, and needs another. The new hospital is just completed and Andrew will be having that done soon, I suppose. When he is again able, he will doubtless return to Barter Island. In the meantime, he has done what he could to help here.

With best wishes to you all, and hoping to see you, I remain,

Yours truly,

ANNA B. KLEREKOPER



Mar.  
31st  
1959

Rev. Fred. G. Klerekoper,  
Barrow, Alaska

Dear Mr. Klerekoper:

No doubt by the time this letter reaches you, you will have received the sad news of Dr. Somerndike's sudden death on March 14th. He was in the office the entire day before, apparently in his usual good state of health. At three o'clock in the morning of the 14th he suffered a heart attack which took him almost instantly. His passing has left a deep void in our work and in our hearts, but we are bravely trying to carry on as we know he would want us to do.

Your letter of February 28th has just been received. Regarding your travel arrangements in coming to the States this summer, we shall be obliged to let you work out this matter in the best way possible. The Board pays the travel of missionaries on furlough as far as Seattle and return to their fields by the cheapest route. You can be guided by this policy and make your arrangements accordingly. We are asking the Treasurer's Office to send you a check for \$300 as an advance on your expenses. If you require an additional amount, kindly let me know.

I shall also try to get you the pass to Chicago, and have it sent to you in Mr. Gould's care in Seattle; also the Eastern clergy.

With reference to your inquiry regarding visitation of the organizations interested in the Barrow work, after conferring with Dr. M. A. Chappel, the Board's Secretary for Publicity, he advises me to write you to make your plans for whatever courses you desire to take at Princeton. Then if you are willing to devote some of your free time in the evenings or over week-ends to filling speaking engagements, he will make all the arrangements for you and will take care of all expenses connected therewith. I think if you will follow this plan the whole matter will be greatly simplified and you will also be able to take the courses at Princeton.

We were glad to learn that Elder Ahmaogak is shaping up so well, and trust that he will be able to carry on the work



satisfactorily in your absence. Will you kindly let me know what compensation he is to receive? With reference to having him licensed, I would suggest that you write to Mr. Youel regarding this matter.

I think also that it would be a good plan for you to have a conference with Percy Ipalook before you leave in order to advise him regarding his oversight of the field in your absence. He has been under the impression that he was to transfer to Barrow, so I think he needs some straightening out.

If there is anything I can do to assist you in this or any other matter, do not hesitate to call on me.

With best wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

UNIT OF ALASKA WORK.

BH



PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

AT

BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK G. KLEREKOPER, MINISTER

May 26, 1939

Miss Blanche Hopp,  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Hopp,

Thank you for the telegram. You can imagine our surprise and sorrow on learning of the death of Dr. Somerndike. We are looking forward to your airmail letter of March which should get here some time in July. We hope it will give us some details.

It is hardly necessary for me to tell you how much we will miss Dr. Somerndike and what a fine man he was to work for. I am sure you know how he helped us over many rough places. As I have often written him, the satisfaction of having the "home office" solidly behind us gives us no little courage. We will always appreciate the confidence he placed in us and the many things he did for us. We have tried to live up to that confidence.

Thank you also for permitting Roy to have the salary for which I asked. It is not large for expenses in this part of Alaska are very high because of freight charges, but I think it will be enough. Thank you also for permission to carry on with our vacation plans. This vacation will mean a great deal to us as Mrs. Klerekoper's parents are coming from Korea on furlough.

We are busy trying to get things here in shape for leaving. There is a possibility of a July mail boat from Nome. From Nome there are commercial boats each month. It is expensive to live in Nome for any length of time so we are hoping to time our arrival with the departure of Seattle bound boats. Average hotel charges in Nome are as much as expensive places "outside". I believe the actual expense of traveling will be about \$500.00 for both of us from here to Seattle. I do not know what expenses east of there will be. When we went out last time Dr. Somerndike arranged a pass for me from Seattle to Chicago via the Milwaukee line. He also arranged a clergy ticket to be sent to Dr. Thompson in Seattle for passage east of Chicago. He made an allowance for food which I am not able to recall. If you have figures for our coming to Barrow you will notice that I am stating a much higher travel expense than it took to get us here. This is due to the fact that we traveled direct from Seattle to Barrow on the government boat the North Star. The charges then were three dollars a piece per day. The North Star does not make a direct return passage. Leave Barrow in September she visits many places south of here arriving in Seattle some time in December. At three dollars a day you will see that it would cost far too much to do a thing like that.



We will have to take available boats between here and Nome and probably one of the Alaska Line boats to Seattle. We will keep an itemized account to submit to you on our arrival.

If I may make a suggestion: it would seem best to deposit in our bank in Seattle, the Pacific National, \$500.00 for travel from here to Seattle. Would it be possible for you to find out the cost of transportation for us from Seattle east and have it deposited in the bank before our arrival? I make bold to make these suggestions because our bank account is unable at the present time to stand the expense.

Thank you again for the telegram. Hoping readjustment will not prove too hard, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

*F. G. Kluckhohn*



PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

AT

BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK G. KLEREKOPER, MINISTER

June 16, 1939

Miss Blanche Hopp,  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
New York N.Y.

Dear Miss Hopp,

Enclosed please find a money order for thirty dollars and fifty-eight cents. (\$30.58) This is the remainder that was due the Mission on the note to Oliver D. Morris. for certain medical care given his family during the time of Dr. Griest. This amount also includes the interest on the note from September 28, 1936.

Morris is a trader in the village. As is the custom, I gave the man who drove me down to Wainwright and return an order on the store of his choice. This man does business with Morris. Thus we owed Morris forty-five dollars (\$45.00) Instead of giving Morris a draft on the Board for this amount I subtracted it from the amount due us on the note. The above mentioned amount, is the remainder of the note plus the interest for the time mentioned. Morris bill is now paid in full.

Sincerely yours,

*F. G. Klerekoper*

*credited to  
Barrow 7/5/39*



July  
5th  
1939

Rev. Fred G. Klerekoper,  
Point Barrow, Alaska

Dear Mr. Klerekoper:

Your letters of May 26th and June 16th arrived just as I was leaving the office for vacation.

Since you wrote your letter of May 26th, we have learned that Mr. Thorne decided to pay you a visit at Barrow, and that you arranged to fly back with him. I trust this simplified the whole matter of your departure and enabled you to make better connections all the way down.

*Let Fred  
refuse*

As I have already written you, to date we have deposited \$550 in your Seattle bank to cover the expenses of yourself and Mrs. Klerekoper to Seattle. In order that you will have enough money to take you east, I have requested the Treasurer's Office today to make an additional deposit of \$250 to your credit - and this advance will represent an advance on account of your salary. If you should not need the entire amount and wish to make a refund later, an adjustment can be made when I return to the office in August or when I shall have an opportunity to see you.

Wishing you a safe journey and a very pleasant sojourn in the States, I am

Very sincerely yours,

BH

UNIT OF ALASKA WORK.



July 31, 1939.

Rev. & Mrs. Fred G. Klerekoper,  
c/o Dr. W. O. Johnson,  
2428 Ridgeview Avenue,  
Eagle Rock, Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Klerekoper:

Welcome home! We are delighted to know that you have arrived safely in California.

We are holding quite a lot of mail for you here in the office and are looking forward to seeing you within the next few weeks. Mr. Gene Gould had forwarded some mail for you in our care, and we just received word from him that you could be reached at the above address, so we thought best to forward Mr. Gould's mail from Seattle to you at your Los Angeles address and have accordingly sent you three pieces of first class mail under separate cover.

We enclose herewith a post card and an air mail letter both of which we felt you would want before your arrival in New York.

Hoping that you are both well and having a delightful time, I am, with kindest regards

Very sincerely yours,

Unit of Sunday School Missions & Alaskan Work  
By

HEW



PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

AT

BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK G. KLEREKOPER, MINISTER

2423 Ridgeview Ave.,  
Eagle Rock, Cal.,  
August 7, 1939.

Miss Blanche Hopp,  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Hopp,

As you will notice from the above address we are in the United States again. At the present we are staying with our very good friend Dr. W.O. Johnson and are certainly being royally entertained. We have not been idle however. In fact it looks as though we will have to go back to Barrow to rest. Yesterday for example I spoke to four different groups beside showing some movies which we have. We are hoping to drive east sometime in the near future with Dr. Frederick Thorne who as you may know, gave us a visit in Barrow, during the month of June. We are very anxious to get east and meet you all at 156.

Andrew Akootchook who as you know has served the coast east of Barrow for many years, has been ill for some time and has been forced to stop his work. He told me on leaving that unless I heard otherwise before the first of August he would be able to go east again. It is now the 7th of August and as I have not heard from him I assume he is ready to go back. If you feel this is right would you let me know, so I can wire him, when his salary will begin. The ice should be out of Barrow by now and I think he will be waiting to hear from us.

The people on this coast seem greatly interested in Pt. Barrow. We wish there were more Wednesdays and Sundays in the week. Most people know that Rogers and Post crashed there and that the Russian fliers were lost somewhere north of Pt. Barrow but otherwise little has been known. It is really a pleasure to show these people that we do not live in ice houses and eat blubber the year around.

With every good wish to all of you, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

*Fred Klerkoper*



Aug.  
11th  
1939

Rev. Fred. Klerekoper,  
2423 Ridgeview Ave.,  
Eagle Rock, Calif.

Dear Mr. Klerekoper:

I was so glad to receive your letter of August 7th and to learn of your pleasant but busy stay in California. Of course Mrs. Hayes has already told me of your trip down from Barrow with Mr. Thorne's party. I was so glad to learn you were able to come out with them.

Now with reference to your inquiry regarding Andrew Akootchook: I am awfully sorry to be obliged to say that there just isn't any money for his support before the beginning of the new budget year - namely, October 1st. Our budget for the current year has had some very heavy drains on it and I am afraid it is about all used up. We were under the impression also that Mr. Akootchook's health would not permit him to resume his work until next year. However, I have set aside the \$400 for his salary for the year beginning October 1st, but that is the very earliest date at which we can resume his salary payments.

We are holding quite a collection of mail for you and Mrs. Klerekoper, and I am wondering whether you would like me to send it on to you. If so, please drop me a line.

We are all so anxious to see both of you again and to hear all about your experiences at Barrow. When may we expect you?

With very best wishes and kindest regards to you and Mrs. Klerekoper, I am

Cordially yours,



*Good to you*

# Sheldon Jackson School

SITKA, ALASKA

Conducted by

The Board of National Missions  
of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.

W. Leslie Yaw, Superintendent

March 4, 1940

Rev. F. G. Klerekoper  
167 Hadley Avenue  
Clifton, N. J.

Dear Mr. Klerekoper:

It was good to get your letter of February 20th. I know that you must have been very busy indeed with the many speaking engagements. I am most interested to know that you have met people who know me and the school. I did thoroughly enjoy my itinerary in Pennsylvania in the winter of '34 and then again the national meeting at Buck Hill Falls and General Assembly in '38. It helps a lot here on the field to know there are so very many loyal members of the church behind us at home.

Do you know C. L. Andrews? Here is a paragraph lifted from a recent letter written me which I think should be passed along to you. Mr. Andrews is an old friend and he has an uncanny accuracy for facts.

"I went to Barrow and back last year. I wish to tell you that in my opinion your work is being threatened at Barrow and Wainwright by the Catholic (Roman) Church. They have established themselves, and are practically controlling, St. Michael (formerly Greek Catholic); Stebbins, King Island, Little Diomed; have invaded Kotzebue; and last summer two priests, Father Hubbard, the "Glacier Priest" and Father Ryan, from Cordova, as well as Bishop Fitzgerald, were to Barrow, and Hubbard went east of Barrow to "prospect" I have heard. Ryan also went to St. Lawrence Id. This is something your church and missionary society cannot afford to disregard, it appears to me. I noted in 1936 that the Catholics were quite active at Matanuska. But they are paying special attention to western and northern Alaska."

Very soon now the Presbytery of Alaska is to meet here in Sitka. We are all eagerly awaiting the visit of Dr. King and are hoping that he will help us find the answers to a number of problems - among them the replacement of the Princeton, and a new church for Sitka. With every good wish,

Very truly yours

*Leslie Yaw*  
Leslie Yaw

LY:h



THE PRESBYTERIAN MISSION  
AT BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK C. KLEREKOPER, MINISTER

38 Alexander St.,  
Princeton, N.J.,  
April 3, 1940.

Dr. E. King,  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. King:

Welcome home! It was good to hear your voice over the telephone this morning. I hope you found your family well and not too much work piled up.

I hope to be back from Pittsburgh Friday. I have to be in New York Saturday afternoon to see about some films Dr. Thorne is having copied for me and I would be glad to come in the morning and talk things over with you. If this is satisfactory would you be good enough to drop me a line?

Enclosed please find a letter I received during your absence from Mr. Yaw. It speaks for itself. There seems to be a growing menace of Catholicism not only in our part of the territory but also around St., Lawrence Island and Cape Prince of Wales. The presence so frequently of Father Hubbard is not encouraging. I'll be glad to go into detail when we meet.

With every good wish,

Cordially,

*J. G. Klerekoper*  
(per G. B. K.)



April 6, 1940

Rev. Mr. Frederick G. Klerekoper  
38 Alexander Street  
Princeton, N.J.

My dear Mr. Klerekoper:

Dr. King is out of town today, but we are expecting him back tomorrow, and I think you can count on seeing him in the morning.

With kindest regards to you and Mrs. Klerekoper, I am

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to Dr. King

HEW:2



June 21, 1940

Rev. Mr. Fred G. Klerekoper  
Camp Wycliffe  
Sulphur Springs, Arkansas

Dear Fred:

The report of your doctor here in New York very clearly calls for an X-ray to be made of Mrs. Klerekoper's chest. I am very anxious that we do not let anything slip up on us; therefore, you will please have this X-ray made immediately, and also any other checks that should help in giving Mrs. Klerekoper a clear record.

It would be a tragic mistake to have you folks go to Barrow with any symptoms whatsoever. May I expect you to take care of this immediately?

Cordially yours,

EBK:DH

ALASKA

THE PRESBYTERIAN MISSION  
AT BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK C. KLEREKOPER, MINISTER

Camp Wycliffe,  
Sulphur Springs, Ark.,  
July 8, 1940.

Dr. Everett B. King,  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

I suppose you are thinking it is about time I answered some of your letters. I had hoped by this time to be able to say that Nan has had that X-ray picture. The nearest town of any size is Joplin, Mo. That is about fifty miles away and the only time Nan went there the people with whom she went were in such a rush she could not have it done. She will have it taken before she goes back however. We may be able to run over ~~there in t~~ there in the near future.

This camp has really been opening our eyes to the possibility of work in the native tongues. I am beginning to believe the reason we have not had more native leaders in both south-eastern Alaska and the north is that the people have not had the opportunity of reading the Bible in their own language. Imagine our enthusiasm if the only way we had of hearing about the work of Christ was through the medium of the French language. Personally I would be a grand flop (I may be anyway). I think that is why our churches haven't had a stronger influence. We expect these people who at best understand English poorly to absorb all the fine shades of meaning found in the Bible. I hope to be able in the next five years to prove the validity of this statement: that we can only develop a strong indigenous church when we give the people the Bible in their own language. This will at least mean learning the Eskimo ourselves and it may mean doing some translating of the Bible.



THE PRESBYTERIAN MISSION  
AT BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK C. KLEREKOPER, MINISTER

-2-

I never was a whiz at languages but the challenge of being able to preach without the aid of an interpreter is mighty strong. I can wake the whole church in Barrow up when I throw in a few words of pidgeon Eskimo. They laugh and get a big kick out of it. I do wish I could speak to them in their own tongue so they wouldn't have to laugh or wait five minutes to know what I said while the interpreter told them. This camp has given us a start in phonetics and I hope as I say to prove that we can do a better job for the Lord by giving them His word in their own language. Luther did it and he got a reformation. Maybe we can start a reformation on a minor scale up there in Barrow.

Well that is off my chest. I'll see that Nan gets that picture taken in the near future. With the best wishes in the world for you in your busy life, and hoping to see you in Seattle,

As ever,

*Fred.*

July 10, 1940

Rev. Mr. Frederick G. Klerekoper  
Camp Wyoliffe  
Sulphur Springs, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Klerekoper:

Your letter of July 8th addressed to Dr. King arrived during his absence from the office on a field trip; however, we will refer it to him in Portland, Oregon, c/o Heathman Hotel, where he will be until the 19th in case you wish to get in touch with him directly.

For your information, I am enclosing a half cover from the American Bible Society catalog on which you will find that they mention Eskimo--Kuskokwim as being one of the languages in which the whole Bible or parts of it may be secured.

This won't help you any in speaking Eskimo, but just thought you might be interested. Perhaps the American Bible Society might be able to help you.

With kindest regards to you and your wife,

I am

Sincerely yours,

UNIT OF SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSIONS  
By

ALASKA



THE PRESBYTERIAN MISSION  
AT BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK C. KLEREKOPER, MINISTER

Camp Wycliffe,  
Sulphur Springs, Ark.,  
July 29, 1940

The Rev. Everett B. King, D.D.,  
General Delivery,  
Capitan, New Mexico.

Dear Dr. King:

We hope that by the time you receive this letter we will be on our way to Seattle. To date we have not heard from Gene. There is some possibility of a boat going if the government gets a hand in it but I doubt if it would pay a boat to make the trip for the business it could get from people in the Arctic. Trapping has been so poor that most of the traders are broke.

I have written several letters to various points along the way. I hope they have caught up with you. I explained in those letters some of the ideas we have had. Just in case they have not been received by you I will go over them again. You will no doubt remember the conversation we had in Rochester at the General Assembly. One of the three goals which we hoped to attain that I mentioned at that time was the strengthening of the moral fibre of our people. As I said then adultery, a hangover from the wife-trading days, is our worst vice. Hunting through material we have found this to be the case in both North and South America in fact wherever Indians are found. You will be saying "Physician heal thyself". And here we think is the solution. Very few Indian tribes have been given the Bible in the vernacular. We have expected these people whose English at best is poor to get their spiritual nourishment in a language that far too often they cannot understand. What spiritual fortitude I would have if the Bible I read was in French, is easy to know if you could consult with my French teachers.

THE PRESBYTERIAN MISSION  
AT BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK C. KLERKOPER, MINISTER

-2-

There has only been one very poor attempt at translating the Bible into Eskimo. The Gospels is all that has been put out to date and they are far from being scientifically done. Our object is to build up the moral fibre of these people and we feel that the way to do this is to give them the Bible in their own tongue. The fact that the people in the Kuskowim district have not used the present work is proof enough that it is not scientific. This is the only dialect that ~~the~~ even a portion of the Bible has been translated into.

If I can prove to you in the next five years that I have a stronger indigenous church than other fields perhaps it is a policy which could be applied in other places. You may be thinking that it would be better if these people could learn English. For forty-two years they have had schools in Barrow and the older people who have been to school cannot, in some cases, even speak pidg<sup>een</sup> English. I can give you also figures of Indian tribes in Mexico who, when given the Bible in a polyglot translation of their own language and the Spanish have picked up Spanish faster than those who have been trained in Spanish schools. In other words, I am convinced that one of the best ways to teach these people English is to give them a diglot translation of English and Eskimo Scriptures.

Should the boat be unable to go to Barrow this year I for one would consider it God's hand. I am sure that in Barrow with the innumerable duties crowding in on us that we would not be able to give the time we would feel necessary to this very important task. If I had my way ~~and~~ had to stay here in the States, I would send to Barrow for one of the Eskimos or perhaps go to Dubuque where Percy Ipalook is, <sup>to be</sup> and before returning the following year I would have the language under control and



THE PRESBYTERIAN MISSION  
AT BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK C. KLEREKOPER, MINISTER

-3-

perhaps some portion of Scripture in the Barrow dialect. This may sound over confident and it may be. I have been having a talk with one of the best linguists in the U.S. and he says that if I would bring an Eskimo to Ann Arbor where he expects to be ~~teach~~ teaching and studying this year he will give me as high as a day a week of his time. With my own eyes, Dr. King, I have seen him in six weeks take the San Blas language which has never been reduced to writing and master it to the extent that Saturday he read a paper at the linguistic conference of leading men in the U.S. which was held in Ann Arbor, explaining the solution to problems in this Panamanian language.

With his help and a year to do it I am positive that with God's help we could master the language. In Barrow to know the language would save us hours of time to say nothing of the efficiency of the work being done. Here for example is a woman, who has something she wishes to confide in her pastor. I have to get a man to interpret before whom she may not care to tell what is on her heart. Then the sermons must all be translated. At most my sermons are twenty minutes long and it takes the interpreter thirty to thirty-five to translate.

All these things make us think it really would be providential if we could spend the year working on the language. But on the other hand we long to go back and see our people. That is our home and our work.

This letter is much longer than I had anticipated. I hope you will forgive the verbosity. I do wish we could get together and go over more of the details. I am convinced that if I could prove this idea successful it would be a good program for other fields. I have prayed about it a good bit.

With every good wish,

As ever,

*Fred.*

THE PRESBYTERIAN MISSION  
AT BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK C. KLEREKOPER, MINISTER

P.S. Please don't think I am asking to stay in the States another year. I am not. I only suggest the above as a plan for the year should we be forced to stay.



*This error  
not mine.*

Kokokahi, Oahu  
August 9, 1940

Dr. Frederick G. Klerekoper  
c/o National Board of Foreign Missions  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York City  
New York

My dear Mr. Klerekoper:

It was a very great pleasure to receive your letter of July 14 from Camp Wycliffe. It was forwarded to me to California, and now I am answering it from Honolulu. I am delighted to know that you have had such a wonderful time at Camp Wycliffe. Some months ago Mr. Nida wrote me asking for your name, and I am so pleased that you two got into touch and that it ended with your going to the Summer Institute of Linguistics. It means a great deal to me to have your estimate of the value of the work done at the Institute and especially your opinion of the caliber of Mr. Nida. I was very much impressed with him when he spoke at the Missionary Luncheon at the Burnham Club last year. I appreciate your suggestions regarding the future employment of his talents. It is something which I will very seriously consider. One of my great regrets in looking back over the past year is that we did not get together more. I want you to know, however, what a fine impression you seem to have made during your furlough. I asked Dr. Jurji to get into touch with you about our Museum. I have asked him to give special attention to the Museum during next year. It is my ambition, when I really get down to the matter, to build up the collection which Dr. Zwemer began, and to develop the museum into a representative picture of interesting features connected with the work of our Foreign and National Boards. In the course of time I trust that we shall be able to house the collection in a special building. In the meantime it will be well cared for and be available for exhibit for our students and others every day of the next seminary year. Whatever you may have which you think would be of interest for our collection will be very much appreciated. What you say regarding the Linguistics problem in general as it affects missionaries working with indigenous people interests me greatly. It will always be a pleasure to hear from you on this or any other matter. I am sending this letter to the National Board, taking it for granted that you will probably have left Camp Wycliffe before this could reach you.

I had a wonderful time at the Synod of California, and now I am beginning the first of two Conferences at a beautiful spot 20 miles from Honolulu. The conference ground is called KOKOKAHI, which means "Of One Blood."

May every blessing be yours during the rest of your furlough and when Mrs. Klerekoper and you return to Alaska. With warm personal regards to you both,

Yours very cordially,

John A. MacKay



THE PRESBYTERIAN MISSION  
AT  
BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK G. KLEREKOPER, Minister

October 5, 1940

Dr. Everett B. King  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York

Dear Dr. King,

It seems a long time since I wrote to you from Arkansas. Then we were in a predicament not knowing how or when we would leave. In fact, I still have the problem of having to dispose of my car. Can you use a good 1940 De Soto Deluxe coach? Right now it is in Dr. Thompson's care in Seattle. He and a friend of mine are trying to dispose it for me. We certainly had to leave in a hurry when the date was finally set.

A far cry it is from New York to these parts. We look back to our year in the States with a great deal of pleasure. And if I may be so blunt, we think we have a grand "boss". We are looking forward to the time when you can get up here to see us. I hope Mr. Schiede saw the way clear to provide the funds for that evangelistic trip to Southeastern that you were thinking of. How did the "Cowboy Camp Meeting" go? I sincerely hope many of the men found the Saviour.

There are a good many things to write about and I hardly know where to begin. For our trip up here and the details---you will find them in my monthly report. Please feel free to use the material in any form you may see fit. About the request I made for repair of the manse and church ---I have used and am using it for the following: the board sidewalks were greatly in need of repair; the warehouse needed shingling; the manse will need malthoid roofing to prevent the frost from forming under the roof; and one of the Eskimos gave me a wash basin which we have installed in the bathroom (Nan has had to put up with our hand washing in the kitchen sink). On the church building proper---the ventilators needed covers, the doors needed hinges; the vestry room for the choir needs a stove and general repair; the church auditorium needs light sockets, etc. The tractor is really so old that it has served its day. I think it too expensive to be fixed. I say this on the advice of Mr. Morgan, the radio operator, who is a competent machinist and has long helped me with my tractor problems. I think the tractor could be repaired if we had it in the States where we could get all the bolts and nuts, parts, etc. for an old machine. The undergearing of its truck is so badly worn that the housing of the axle instead of being round is oval. We have tried to re-babbit it but it soon breaks down again. We are building a storage cellar so our fruits and vegetables will last a little longer. They seldom keep until the boats come but this method should keep them longer. So you see there are many things to do and to be done. We are making good progress with this type of work.



# THE PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

AT

BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK G. KLEREKOPER, Minister

About the church work itself. [The Eskimos were as happy as we when we got back. They are a grand bunch to work with. This month we have had four additions to the church. One on profession of faith and three on reaffirmation of faith.] Several have slipped since our absence. Adultery, as always, is our greatest evil. We have not had time, as yet, to begin the study of the language with the view of the translation of Scripture. We feel that is our big job and that moral fibre will strengthen when the people have the Bible in the vernacular. As I said in a former letter, Luther's greatest gain during the reformation was that he had the Bible for the people to read in their own language. What spiritual stamina these people have is due to tremendous effort on their part. What I would have if I had to read the Bible in French or German, I do not know, but I dare say it would be small. Not only do we expect the people to read the Bible in our language but in an archaic form of it. I marvel that they have come as far as they have and their predicament calls for much patience on our part. But we feel that with God's help even this problem can be overcome. We are confident of His assistance.

I hope the church fund will grow both here and from your end. [When I returned, the church had been painted both inside and out all by volunteer labor and as a surprise for us. It looks very lovely with its red roof and white walls in contrast to the white snow. The tithing comes in regularly and we should be able to do a lot this winter for the poor of the church. There are many of these. When a man is sick here his family at once needs assistance. The Eskimos are hunters and when they can't hunt they don't eat. My seal nets, fishing nets, ammunition are being used right now to provide for the poor this winter.] Hunger is really at our door. The reindeer herd is under very strict supervision because of improper handling during past years. The people have practically no meat from that source, and they eat meat three times a day. It will take several years before the herd is built up again.

I don't want to bore you with the details of the problems here but they are many I assure you. Through it all the church has ministered to the spiritual needs and we hope will bear the rich fruit of the Spirit as God's Word promises.

With every good wish, I am

Cordially yours,

*Fred Klerekoper*

Mrs. Frederick G. Klerekooper  
Barrow, Alaska

Oct. 26, 1940.

Mr. Everett B. King  
156 - Fifth Ave.  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. King,

Can obtain  
no information  
re present address  
of Mr. King.

This letter, which  
seems to be somewhat  
personal, came here for  
Miss Lakin, who used  
to be here, but has not  
been for some time. If  
you do not have her  
address, possibly  
"Women + Missions" has it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Anna B. Klerekooper



Barrow, Alaska,  
Oct. 27, 1940.

Presby. Bd. of Natl. Missions  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N. Y.

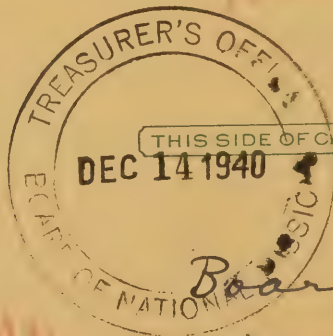
Dear Sirs, (Mains or Misses)

We are constantly  
receiving Board literature  
for Miss Lillie M. Bailey.  
Miss Bailey has not  
been here for some  
years. I do not know  
her present address,  
but believe it is  
in Monticello, Ind.  
Could you please  
inform your different  
departments. We get  
Children's & Rally Day  
programs, etc.

Sincerely,

Anna B. Herkner

F. G. KLEREKOPER  
BARROW, ALASKA



Board of National Missions  
of the Presbyterian Church  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York  
N.Y.



October 29, 1940

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. Fred G. Klerekoper  
Barrow, Alaska

Dear Fred:

How much do you want for your De Soto de luxe coach? I know of no prospect now, but my missionaries are continually buying cars and this might be an opportunity. Let me know the price and whether or not the car is clear.

We had a great Cowboy Camp Meeting in New Mexico. On Sunday more than one thousand people were on the grounds. Some nine cowboys were converted and I believe if we could have had another day or two to go, this number would have been doubled.

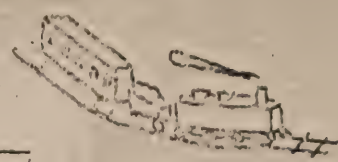
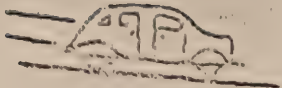
I am very much interested in the passion in your heart for translating the Bible into the native Eskimo tongue. I feel that would be a great step forward and I am perfectly willing and ready to start the procedure when you name the time. Please write me more in detail about what you have in mind. Who is capable of this big job? When would it be done?

Would it not be better to translate portions of the Scriptures, say begin with one of the Gospels - Mark, Luke, or John - and translate this. Then the task could be gradually completed.

Cordially yours,

EBK:DH

2000



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# CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



Barrow, Alaska  
October 30, 1940

Dear Friends,

Christmas card time again, and again time presses, and the work becomes more involved than had been anticipated. Somehow, we must get these off on the mail November 1st. We finally had to give up the card idea. We printed about 70 on vegetable parchment, of which we have a super-abundance due to a mistake in ordering, but we have 362 envelopes addressed, and each parchment sheet has to be cursed through the mimeograph, so we decided to do it all on the regular paper. The photographic supplies we ordered did not come,--hence this substitution and hence, also, the "un-Christmassy" envelopes.

Our year outside has come and gone, all too quickly. Too many relatives were merely glimpsed, too many friends missed entirely. Most of our year was spent in New Jersey. Between speaking engagements, Fred tried to do post-graduate work at Princeton Seminary and take several courses in the Choir School, and Nan tried to keep house. It was too much. However, we met some wonderful people, and they stand out like oases on the desert of our rushing to and fro.

In June, we left the east coast and went to Sulphur Springs, Arkansas, where we received uncountable blessings, great inspirations and the most expert instruction in the Summer Institute of Linguistics. This school is exclusively for missionaries or those planning to go to pioneer fields. Its object is to get the Bible in their own language to people whose language has never been written. To that end, the school is run. In its classes we concentrate on the techniques necessary to learn and reduce to writing a language never before written. The instruction is basic, and can therefore be applied equally well in any part of the world. The instructors are among the country's best, and being such fine, fully consecrated Christians, are able to put life, vividness and enthusiasm into a subject that might otherwise be of only academic interest.



As you probably know, Eskimo, at least in this dialect, has never been studied very thoroughly, and the people do not know how to read or write it. Before we left to go on furlough we had felt a great need to study it, so that we could talk, at least, to our friends here without an interpreter. We understand now, too, that the prevailing weaknesses shown in the lives of our Christians would probably vanish if they had God's Word in the language of their homes. They are so eager to know that Word, but how much can they be expected to get from it when, with little or no education, they attempt to read it in not only a foreign tongue, of which they know little, but in an archaic form of that tongue? The Bible is hard enough for us to understand. We find enough allusions to life and times which we do not know to obscure much of the meaning. How must it be for the Eskimo, who has never seen a field of grain, or smelled a rose, climbed a mountain, or suffered from thirst, seen a city or slept in an inn? Such difficulties are enough without a language difficulty, too.

We feel like a couple of very small Davids who have just finished gathering small round stones, and are not just sure how they will work in their newly acquired slings. And Goliath is roaring at us close by now. "They" all say that the Eskimo language is one of the most difficult on this earth, but our stones are smooth and round, and our slings are the latest model. We spent six weeks learning the rudiments of their use, and God is on our side. With His help we hope to conquer our Eskimo Goliath, and lay him flat for all to see and read.

We had to leave our summer school early in order to get back here. Our trip was fast, and confused throughout by not knowing how we should be going next. We came by Alaska Steamship Line from Seattle to Seward, visiting Juneau and other ports in Southeastern Alaska (not Skagway) on the way. In Juneau we picked up a girl, just out of high school, who wanted to spend the year with us. Her name is Harriett Lawrence, and she is the niece of Miss Lawrence of Haines House. Harriett was here for a few days last summer (1939) and so she knew something of what she was doing when she joined us. She is helping us in every sort of way--with the housework and the secretarial work as well.

From Seward we took the train to Fairbanks and from there Sig Wien flew us to Kotzebue where we hoped to catch the Department of Interior ship "North Star" (one of the ships that was with Byrd in the Antarctic last year). When we found it had left we thought we should have to fly the rest of the way to Barrow, and were preparing to do so, when the Coast Guard Cutter "Itasca" came into port going north. They kindly brought us the rest of our way.



Since returning, there has been a lot to attend to, of course. Some of the girls had cleaned house for us, but we had to unpack, check freight, and get things straightened up. The warehouse was shingled, some improvements made in the bathroom, the lower part of the cache enclosed to entomb the tractor (it is no longer any good, but we can't bear to throw it completely away), and we have almost completed a storage hole below the kitchen for perishable foods.

[In the church work, things have been going ahead also. Four new elders and five new deacons have been elected and are doing excellent work. The trustees have been in charge of the goods produced by the people who want to sell them and at the same time give a tenth to the deacon's fund.] Some very attractive things have been made--old-style decorated Eskimo balls, stuffed with reindeer hair; Barrow banners, of sealskin with a picture of the church in colors woven and appliqued on it; dolls; little miniature boots; full-sized slippers; ivory carvings; whalebone baskets. These things are generally sent to the Gift Shop in the Board Rooms for sale, in case you have any customers.

[When we built the warehouse, our first year here, we incorporated into it an old mission building, originally an Eskimo home, known as the "Igloo". Our first year, the Igloo served as storage space. The second year it was the laboratory for the doctors doing research for the Public Health Service. The third year it was used as the residence of a white family who were prevented by weather from getting the materials to build their own house. Last year it was vacant. This year we thought up a new use for it. It is being used as a women's workshop. So many homes have insufficient light and fuel that we are letting the women and children come to the Igloo to work.

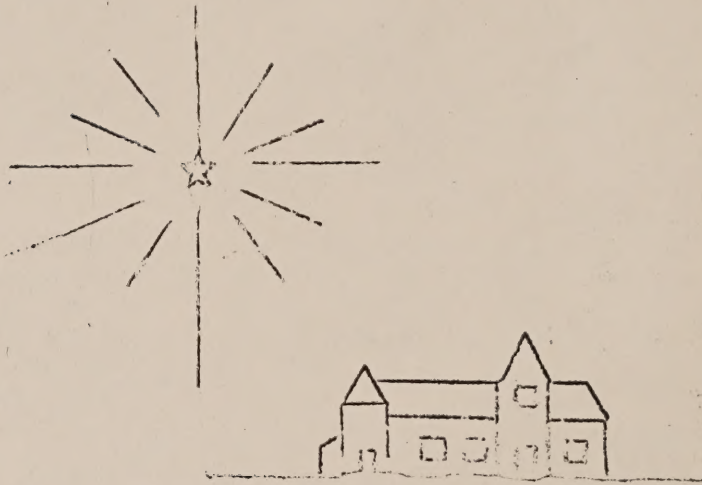


takes time, ink, and enthusiasm to forge these paper links, but if we are faithful to them, even once a year, we should not meet again as strangers.

May the light from the Bethlehem star shine on all our hearts, and spread over this whole sin-sick world healing and bringing peace. Blessed are the peacemakers.

Wishing you the deepest blessings and the highest joys at Christmas and during the coming year,

Fred and Nan Klereboper



Peace on earth goodwill to men. - Luke 2:14  
For the promise is unto you and to your  
children, and to all that are afar off,  
even as many as the Lord our God  
shall call. - Acts 2:39



THE PRESBYTERIAN MISSION  
AT  
BARROW, ALASKA

FREDERICK G. KLEREKOPER, Minister

November 5, 1940

Dr. Everett B. King  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York

Dear Dr. King,

There are so many things that come to mind when one writes to you, that I have to write them piecemeal in order to get everything in. There are several things that have come to mind lately in which we could be of great service to the community. They are as follows:

(1) In Barrow we have no hotels or road houses, as are common to Alaska, and anyone traveling this way must stay with the local people. This often is very inconvenient for both natives and whites as no one has any too much space. My suggestion is that a small house could be built at a reasonable cost to provide shelter for travelers. This shelter could be in charge of the deacons of the church and built on mission property. I know that it would be of great service to both natives and whites. Should you feel that this is a good idea, I would be glad to suggest size and cost. I believe, also, in this regard, that a small dog house as an extension would be very serviceable.

(2) Another item which has often presented itself is the need for lumber to build coffins. When a person dies it is very distressing to have them come to the mission or go to the various stores and try to borrow or get lumber. There is no wood here from which coffins could be made. This would have to be shipped in. It would not take a great deal every year, and yet, I feel that we would be rendering a valuable service in securing this for those who are distressed at the time of bereavement.

(3) We have, in the community, several deaf people. They love to come to church but very often can only see what there is to the worship service. They feel, as do those who are able to hear, the necessity of the Communion of Saints. They come and sit quietly, very faithfully, Sunday by Sunday. My heart goes out to them in their desire to hear the message. Most of them cannot read English and so have very, very little on which to grow spiritually. My suggestion is a hearing aid of some kind with several phones connected. I know that many hearts would be



joyful in hearing perhaps for the first time in years the story which they have learned to love in their youth.

These are suggestions to be dealt with if and when you see fit. In sincerely hope that either the Board or some one of financial strength will see the necessity of these things. We hope also that you are still coming to visit us, for I know of no better way to know the needs than to see them first hand, --to say nothing of the joy of the missionary here.

With every good wish, I am

Cordially yours,

*Ira H. Cooper*



December 17, 1940

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. F.G. Klerekoper  
Barrow, Alaska

Dear Fred:

Because of the problem that we faced this past summer relative to transportation of supplies, we are going to try to avoid a repetition of it this summer. Therefore we ask that your requisition be in our office not later than April 15, 1941.

With the heavy traffic that Alaska is now receiving because of government activities, I am pretty sure we will need all the additional time we can find to take care of the orders properly. Be sure, then, to let me have your list not later than April 15, sooner if possible.

By the time you receive this letter, Christmas greetings will be cold, but the warmth of my heart will still remain.

Cordially yours,

EBK:DH

ALASKA